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ABSTRACT

Tabular data are presented which indicate substantial increases in numbers of medical schools, applicants, applications, and new entrants from 1970-71 through 1974-75. It appears that the rates of increase have been declining somewhat since 1972-73. Substantial increases have been found among female and minority group applicants and acceptees. The quality of the applicant pool, as measured by MCAT scores and by undergraduate college grades, continues at a very high level and has shown less changes over the years under study. Major exceptions have been gains in the science subtest of the MCAT and in the proportion of admitted students with "A" average. It is concluded that the number of applicants may be starting to level off, but that the admission process at U.S. medical schools promises to continue to be a voluminous, expensive, and important activity. Each of the 25 tables is accompanied by descriptive commentary and deals with four major headings: applicant and application activity, academic background, demographic information, and career plans. (Author/LBH)

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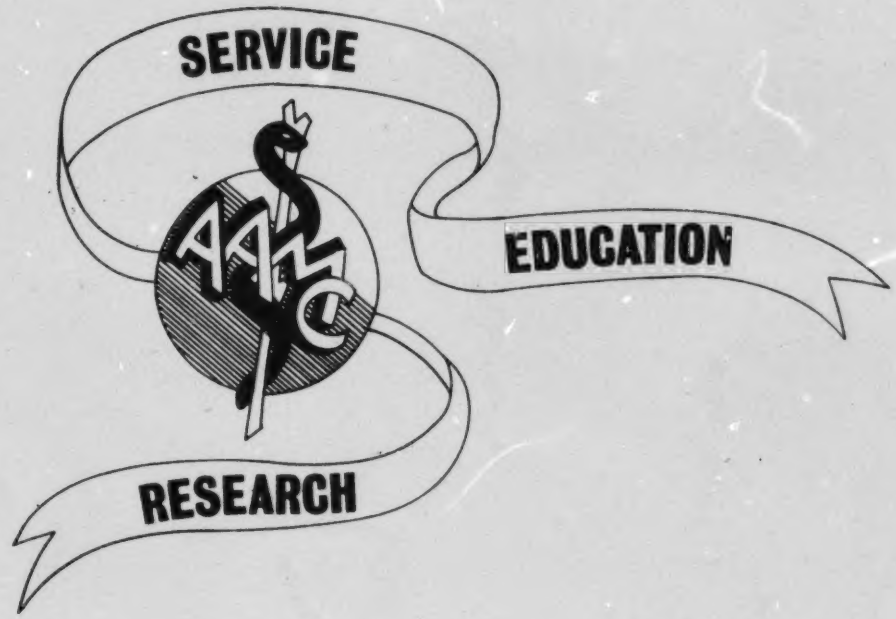
DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF MEDICAL SCHOOL APPLICANTS 1974-75



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DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF

MEDICAL SCHOOL APPLICANTS

1974-75 *

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AAMC Division of Student Studies

Descriptive Study of Medical School Applicants, 1974-75

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I. INTRODUCTION

As indicated in the research design that was submitted to the NIH Bureau of Health Manpower (BHM) in September 1975, the major deliverables to BHM under this contract are:

1. Approximately 25 tables of data as outlined in Exhibit A of the research design.
2. A report which summarizes and interprets the data in these tables.

A draft report was prepared in October 1975 which included data for all of the tables outlined in the research design or explanations of the reasons that several of these tables of data were not being provided at that time. In addition, a brief narrative accompanied each of the 25 actual or proposed tables.

Since no comments were received from BHM relative to suggested changes from the draft report, the general content and format of this final report are similar to that previously submitted.

As indicated in the draft report, however, additional checks have been made on the accuracy of the preliminary data, and necessary modifications have been made in both the tables and the narrative comments.

This final report also includes the missing data from Tables 5 and 18 plus five tables of supplementary data that are presented

and explained in a newly added Appendix A.

As specified in the contract, major emphasis in the study has been given to comparing the application situation in 1970-71 with that of 1974-75. Once again, the tables and commentaries are grouped under the following four major headings of:

A. Applicant and Application Activity
B. Academic Background
C. Demographic Information
D. Career Plans

Highlights of the 1974-75 aspects of this study were published as a Datagram in the December 1975 issue of the Journal of Medical Education. For the convenience of the reader of this final report, a copy of that Datagram is attached as Appendix B. It is anticipated that a complete report of the findings of the study will also be submitted to the Journal of Medical Education for eventual publication.

Finally, a new Appendix C has been added to facilitate the checking of the statistical significance of differences in pertinent findings of this study. This appendix should be of particular value in ascertaining whether variations in the proportions of students accepted to medical school from various subgroups are statistically different from the general acceptance ratio of 35 percent that was true nationally for

the 42,624 applicants to the 1974-75 first-year class.

As illustrated in the example provided in Appendix C, the 43 percent acceptance rate for chemistry majors is statistically very different from the national rate of 35 percent. Figure 1 of this appendix can be used to test the significance of any of the dozens of variations in acceptance rates that are reported throughout the study. These reports include acceptance success by sex, age, self-description, number of applications filed, father's occupation, and career plans.

Table 1

Summary of Application Activity, 1970-71 Through 1974-75

First-Year Class	No. of Medical Schools	Number of Applicants	Number of Applications	Applications per Individual*	Accepted Applicants	Number of Applicants per Acceptance	First-Year Enrollment†	Percent of Total Applicants Accepted
1970-71	102	24,987	148,797	5.95	11,500	2.17	11,348	46.0
1971-72	108	29,172	210,943	7.23	12,335	2.36	12,361	42.3
1972-73	112	36,135	267,306	7.40	13,757	2.63	13,677	38.1
1973-74	114	40,506	328,275	8.10	14,335	2.83	14,159‡	35.4
1974-75	114	42,624	362,376	8.50	15,066	2.83	14,763	35.3
Change from 1970-71 to 1974-75								
Number	12	17,637	213,579	2.55	3,566	.66	3,415	-10.7
Percent	12%	71%	144%	43%	31%	30%	30%	-23%

* Average number.

† Includes previously enrolled students: data for 1974-75 enrollment from AAMC fall enrollment questionnaire.

‡ Variation from previously published total reflects late reports.

Commentary on Table 1

As shown in Table 1, the number of medical schools increased steadily from 102 in 1970 to 114 in 1973-74 and remained at that level for the 1974-75 entering class. Whereas this represented a 12 percent increase in the number of medical schools, the number of applicants rose by over 70 percent, and the number of applications rose at twice that rate, increasing by over 140 percent during this five-year period.

The number of accepted applicants and the first-year enrollment each rose approximately by 30 percent over this period of time. Since the rate of growth in applicants was over twice that of enrollments, it was inevitable that the percent of total applicants accepted declined during this period.

It is noteworthy, that the applicants-to-place ratio established for 1973-74 appears to have stabilized for 1974-75. The number of applications per individual, however, continued to rise.

Table 2

Comparison of Accepted Applicants, Nonmatriculants, and New First-Year Entrants, 1970-71 Through 1974-75

First-Year Class	No. of Medical Schools	Total Accepted	Nonmatriculants		New Entrants	
			No.	Percent	No.	Percent
1970-71	102	11,500	331	2.9	11,169	97.1
1971-72	108	12,335	247	2.0	12,088	98.0
1972-73	112	13,757	405	2.9	13,352	97.1
1973-74	114	14,335	459	3.2	13,876	96.8
1974-75	114	15,066	488	3.2	14,578	96.8
Change from 1970-71 to 1974-75						
Number	12	3,566	157	+0.3	3,409	-0.3
Percent	12%	31%	47%	+10%	31%	-0.31%

Commentary on Table 2

Of particular interest in this table are the data relative to matriculants. Of the 11,500 individuals offered a place in a U.S. medical school for 1970-71, only 331 or 2.9 percent failed to enroll. These figures were even lower for 1971-72, when only 247 students representing 2.0 percent of those accepted, did not matriculate. For the 1972-73 entering class, the proportion of nonmatriculants was back at the 2.9 percent level, and for 1973-74 and 1974-75 it rose slightly to 3.2 percent for each of these years.

Possible hypotheses to explain these changes in nonmatriculants include the following:

1. The end of the military draft (on July 1, 1973) with the result that a few students who might have applied to medical school in order to escape conscription may have decided to pursue a different type of graduate education and/or career.

2. The growing numbers of minority and female acceptees, some of whom may have been less likely to have matriculated because of receiving less financial support from their families.

3. The threat of declining financial aid for medical students generally.

Commentary on Table 2 (cont.)

4. The new policy at some medical schools of allowing students to wait a year after acceptance before they actually matriculate.

By the use of the chi-square test, it was determined that the variations in proportion of nonmatriculants during the five years studied was significant at the .005 level. A similar comparison between the nonmatriculants for 1970-71 and 1974-75, however, revealed only a marginally significant difference (between the .05 and .10 levels).

Table 3

Comparative Acceptance Data for First-Time and Repeat Applicants,

1974-75 Entering Class*

Category	Men		Women		Total	
	No.	Percent Accepted	No.	Percent Accepted	No.	Percent Accepted
First-Time Applicants						
Accepted	9,295	37.4	2,845	41.3	12,140	38.2
Total	24,859	--	6,894	--	31,753	--
Repeat Applicants						
Accepted	2,379	26.3	547	30.1	2,926	26.9
Total	9,053	--	1,818	--	10,871	--
All Applicants						
Accepted	11,674	34.4	3,392	38.9	15,066	35.3
Total	33,912	--	8,712	--	42,624	--

* Repeat Applicants are limited to those who also applied for the 1973-74 entering class.

Commentary on Table 3

The data in this table are generally comparable with those for 1973-74, which was the first year this type of analysis was carried out. As the year before, first-time applicants had a higher acceptance rate (38.2 percent) than repeat applicants (26.9 percent). Women continued to have higher acceptance rates than men regardless of whether they were first-time or repeat applicants.

The differential in the acceptance rates for men and women repeat applicants, however, appears to be becoming smaller. Whereas the comparable figures for the 1973-74 entering class were 24.7 percent for men and 31.2 percent for women (for a difference 6.5 percent), the differential for the 1974-75 entering class, as indicated in the table, was only 4 percent (26.3 for men compared with 30.1 for women).

It is also noteworthy that the total proportion of applicants for the 1974-75 entering class who had also applied to the previous first-year class was 25.5 percent as compared with only 22.6 percent for the 1973-74 entering class. This suggests that rejected applicants are continuing to reapply at an increasing rate. It also illustrates that applicant figures of recent years have been inflated by those who are reapplying. Therefore, the actual number of individuals applying each year provides a misleadingly high indication of the true number seeking admission to medical school over a protracted period of time.

Table 4

Applicants and New Entrants by Medical School and Sex, 1974-75 First-Year Class

(and total comparative data for 1970-71)

Name of School (By State or Territory)	No. of New First-Year Entrants						Total No. of Applicants					
	1974-75			1970-71	Increase		1974-75			1970-71	Increase	
	Men	Women	Total	Total	No.	Percent	Men	Women	Total	Total	No.	Percent
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
Alabama												
*Alabama-Birmingham	104	21	125	103	22	21	1,046	204	1,250	739	511	69
*South Alabama	47	17	64		64	†	998	154	1,152		1,152	†
Arizona												
*Arizona	52	19	71	64	7	11	743	144	887	749	138	18
Arkansas												
*Arkansas	106	15	121	110	21	19	839	97	936	539	397	74
California												
*California-Davis	66	34	100	50	50	100	2,879	865	3,744	1,314	2,430	185
*California-Irvine	51	19	70	64	6	9	2,673	699	3,372	1,593	1,779	112
*California-Los Angeles	120	25	145	137	8	6	3,277	864	4,141	1,761	2,380	135
*California-San Diego	74	21	95	50	45	9	3,182	915	4,097	2,349	1,748	74
*California-San Francisco	94	53	147	133	14	11	3,753	1,153	4,906	2,055	2,851	139
Loma Linda	129	33	162	127	35	28	3,833	754	4,585	1,011	3,574	354
Southern California	98	30	128	94	34	36	3,635	916	4,551	1,952	2,599	133
Stanford	66	29	95	76	19	25	3,471	1,085	4,556	1,983	2,573	130
Colorado												
*Colorado	88	37	125	113	12	11	1,460	392	1,852	1,799	53	3
Connecticut												
*Connecticut	49	11	60	33	27	82	1,294	440	1,734	1,411	323	23
Yale	75	27	102	93	9	10	1,621	567	2,188	1,886	302	16

Table 4

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
District of Columbia												
George Washington	111	37	148	119	29	24	6,840	1,726	8,566	2,666	5,900	221
Georgetown	166	39	205	173	32	19	6,721	1,629	8,350	2,905	5,445	187
Howard	83	44	127	111	16	14	3,413	892	4,305	1,006	3,299	328
Florida												
*Florida	60	20	80	68	12	18	1,690	371	2,060	953	1,107	116
*Florida State	27	9	36		36	†	27	9	36		36	†
Miami	106	18	124	115	9	8	1,059	175	1,234	664	570	86
*South Florida	54	10	64		64	†	756	125	883		881	†
Georgia												
Emory	92	12	104	94	10	11	4,407	909	5,316	1,316	4,000	304
*Med. Coll. of Georgia	152	27	179	136	43	32	1,325	260	1,585	415	1,170	282
Hawaii												
*Hawaii	50	16	66	50	16	32	1,585	288	1,873	303	570	188
Illinois												
Chicago Med.	91	10	101	83	18	22	4,574	999	5,573	1,879	3,694	197
Chicago--Pritzker	82	22	104	90	14	16	5,355	1,260	6,615	1,457	5,158	354
*Illinois	273	58	331	225	106	47	2,140	543	2,683	1,123	560	50
Loyola (Stritch)	104	26	130	121	9	7	6,015	1,649	7,664	2,155	5,509	256
Northwestern	135	36	171	160	11	7	6,220	1,470	7,690	3,444	4,246	123
Rush	70	20	90		90	†	2,611	721	3,332		3,332	†
*Southern Illinois	45	10	55		55	†	1,024	221	1,245		1,245	†
Indiana												
*Indiana	244	61	305	247	58	23	1,447	307	1,754	1,214	540	44
Iowa												
*Iowa	145	28	173	144	29	20	1,219	261	1,480	496	984	198

Table 4

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
Kansas												
*Kansas	126	37	163	131	32	24	810	197	1,007	588	419	71
Kentucky												
*Kentucky	85	23	108	88	20	23	1,902	443	2,345	1,116	1,229	110
*Louisville	103	32	135	122	13	11	1,365	282	1,647	1,973	-326	-17
Louisiana												
*Louisiana State-New Orleans	120	25	145	145	-	0	1,067	195	1,262	491	771	157
*Louisiana State-Shreveport	36	4	40	32	8	25	439	60	499	332	167	50
Tulane	124	24	148	138	10	7	7,113	1,279	8,392	2,574	5,818	226
Maryland												
Johns Hopkins	94	26	120	109	11	10	1,221	345	1,566	1,346	220	16
*Maryland	120	45	165	144	21	15	1,371	414	1,785	1,016	769	76
Massachusetts												
Boston	95	36	131	94	37	39	3,803	1,320	5,123	2,358	2,765	117
Harvard	110	55	165	138	27	20	2,465	824	3,289	1,593	1,696	106
*Massachusetts	49	14	63	16	47	294	679	227	906	286	620	217
Tufts	99	46	145	122	23	19	3,281	1,138	4,419	2,126	2,293	108
Michigan												
*Michigan	179	58	237	225	12	5	3,241	856	4,097	1,726	2,371	137
*Michigan State	65	40	105	46	59	128	1,991	528	2,519	841	1,678	200
*Wayne State	214	41	255	164	91	55	3,562	733	4,295	1,883	2,412	128
Minnesota												
Mayo	32	9	41		41	†	1,401	339	1,740		1,740	†
*Minnesota-Duluth	29	7	36		36	†	880	170	1,050		1,050	†
*Minnesota-Minneapolis	198	41	239	229	10	4	1,550	349	1,899	952	947	99

Table 4

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
Mississippi												
*Mississippi	125	25	150	94	56	60	840	127	967	504	463	92
Missouri												
*Missouri-Columbia	90	20	110	100	10	10	1,522	304	1,826	1,466	360	25
*Missouri-Kansas City	52	19	71		71	†	67	23	90		90	†
St. Louis	122	32	154	141	13	9	7,710	1,484	9,194	2,581	6,613	256
Washington-St. Louis	86	34	120	110	10	9	4,214	1,080	5,294	2,003	3,291	164
Nebraska												
Creighton	94	16	110	88	22	25	7,205	1,299	8,504	2,369	6,135	259
*Nebraska	121	24	145	121	24	20	1,023	258	1,281	692	589	85
Nevada												
*Nevada	36	12	48		48	†	715	133	848		848	†
New Hampshire												
Dartmouth	47	17	64	53	11	21	2,105	694	2,799	1,052	1,747	166
New Jersey												
*New Jersey Med.	80	32	112	85	27	32	1,848	544	2,392	1,604	788	49
*Rutgers	83	25	108	80	28	35	1,529	437	1,966	916	1,050	115
New Mexico												
*New Mexico	48	24	72	47	25	53	837	219	1,056	331	725	219
New York												
Albany	78	29	107	79	28	35	3,623	889	4,512	1,862	2,650	142
Albert Einstein	126	47	173	113	60	53	4,819	1,383	6,202	1,766	4,436	251
Columbia	104	42	146	136	10	7	3,314	1,155	4,469	1,798	2,671	149
Cornell	70	31	101	91	10	11	3,313	1,117	4,430	1,827	2,603	142
Mount Sinai	62	18	80	40	40	100	2,467	821	3,288	1,590	1,698	107

Table 4

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
New York Med.	251	82	333	133	200	150	3,767	1,076	4,843	2,765	2,178	79
New York Univ.	138	48	186	140	46	33	2,875	957	3,832	2,423	1,409	58
Rochester	72	24	97	79	20	25	3,312	888	4,200	1,625	2,575	158
*State Univ. of New York-Buffalo	106	29	135	125	10	8	4,214	1,103	5,317	2,129	3,188	150
*State Univ. of New York-Downstate	159	57	216	206	10	5	4,902	1,383	6,285	3,024	3,261	108
*State Univ. of New York-Stony Brook	23	27	50		50	†	1,377	536	1,913		1,913	†
*State Univ. of New York-Upstate	91	29	120	110	10	9	3,802	1,038	4,840	1,931	2,909	151
North Carolina												
Bowman Gray	70	20	90	77	13	17	3,315	601	3,916	1,920	1,996	104
Duke	85	32	117	105	12	11	3,112	822	3,934	1,804	2,130	118
*East Carolina	17	3	20		20	†	290	44	334		334	†
*North Carolina	84	26	110	100	10	10	1,358	347	1,705	1,270	435	34
North Dakota												
*North Dakota	56	11	67	52	15	29	164	31	195	138	57	41
Ohio												
Case Western Reserve	100	37	137	108	29	27	6,634	1,606	8,240	2,210	6,030	273
*Cincinnati	151	33	184	107	77	72	5,326	1,206	6,532	1,764	4,768	270
*Med. Coll. of Ohio-Toledo	62	18	80	32	48	150	1,513	321	1,834	1,001	833	83
*Ohio State	185	41	226	216	10	5	2,221	457	2,678	1,132	1,546	137
Oklahoma												
*Oklahoma	128	29	157	137	20	15	1,202	235	1,437	608	829	136
Oregon												
*Oregon	92	22	114	96	18	19	710	176	886	739	147	20
Pennsylvania												
Hahnenmann	130	32	162	122	40	33	2,618	653	3,271	2,771	500	18
Je[illegible]gon	184	39	223	210	[illegible]	6	4,983	1,249	6,232	3,302	2,930	89

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
Med. Coll. of Pennsylvania	24	66	90	68	22	32	2,897	2,202	5,099	716	4,383	612
*Pennsylvania	112	48	160	149	11	7	2,876	871	3,747	2,438	1,309	54
*Pennsylvania State	74	17	91	69	22	32	2,060	641	2,701	2,486	215	9
Pittsburgh	99	37	136	125	11	9	3,101	724	3,825	1,919	1,906	99
*Temple	136	42	178	159	19	12	3,913	1,032	4,945	2,737	2,208	81
Rhode Island												
Brown	46	14	60	21	39	186	222	63	285	27	258	956
South Carolina												
*South Carolina	131	24	155	120	35	29	1,188	172	1,360	625	735	118
South Dakota												
*South Dakota	52	13	65	54	11	20	251	58	309	704	-395	-56
Tennessee												
Meharry	77	30	107	87	20	23	2,477	585	3,062	1,136	1,926	170
*Tennessee	172	32	204	192	12	6	730	127	857	848	9	1
Vanderbilt	69	14	83	75	8	11	3,792	964	4,756	1,202	3,554	296
Texas												
Baylor	131	37	168	124	44	35	3,151	813	3,964	1,557	2,407	155
*Texas-Galveston	155	48	203	175	28	16	1,926	398	2,324	973	1,351	139
*Texas-Houston	46	6	52		52	†	1,875	407	2,282		2,282	†
*Texas-San Antonio	97	25	122	108	14	13	1,920	403	2,323	1,103	1,220	111
*Texas-Southwestern	172	28	200	110	90	82	1,963	417	2,380	1,083	1,297	120
*Texas Tech	29	11	40		40	†	1,410	232	1,642		1,642	†
Utah												
*Utah	84	16	100	75	25	33	1,769	306	2,075	877	1,198	137
Vermont												
*Vermont	59	24	83	76	7	9	1,702	480	2,182	1,635	547	33
Virginia												
Eastern Virginia	28	8	36		36	†	1,378	267	1,645		1,645	†

Table 4

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
*Med. Coll. of Virginia	137	28	165	135	30	22	2,809	594	3,403	1,501	1,905	127
*Virginia	111	22	133	95	38	40	2,249	536	2,785	1,391	1,394	100
Washington												
*Washington	105	30	135	102	33	32	1,411	383	1,794	725	1,069	147
West Virginia												
*West Virginia	72	11	83	74	9	12	350	68	418	208	210	101
Wisconsin												
Med. Coll. of Wisconsin	97	17	114	112	2	2	4,059	792	4,851	2,505	2,346	94
*Wisconsin	122	37	159	114	45	39	1,037	278	1,315	804	511	64
Puerto Rico												
Puerto Rico	83	35	118	91	27	30	328	145	473	305	168	55
Total Schools	11,315	3,264	14,579	11,169	3410	31	288,962	73,414	362,376	148,797	213,579	144
Subtotals by Support												
Private (N=46)	4,464	1,431	5,895				172,397	45,050	217,447			
Public (N=68)	6,851	1,833	8,684				116,565	28,364	144,929			

*Asterisks indicate schools that were publicly supported during 1974-75. Underlining indicates schools that participated in AMCAS in the selection of their 1974-75 entering class as reported in 1974-75 Medical School Admission Requirements, United States and Canada. Washington, D.C.: Association of American Medical Colleges, 1973.

†Percentage increase not applicable because school had no students in 1970-71.

Commentary on Table 4

This table provides data on a school-by-school basis covering many of the same parameters previously reported nationally in Tables 1 and 2.

For example, whereas the national increase in first-year entrants from 1970-71 to 1974-75 was 31 percent, as indicated on Table 2, column 7 of Table 4 reveals that on a school-by-school basis this ranged all the way from no change at all at LSU-New Orleans to an increase of 100 percent or over at California-Davis, University of Massachusetts, Michigan State University, Mount Sinai, New York Medical College, Medical College of Ohio at Toledo and Brown University. Although most of these large increases occurred at newly developing schools, the situation at New York Medical College is unique in that its growth is explained mostly by the one-time addition of a second freshman class during the spring of 1975. This supplementary group was related to a transition between a three-year and a four-year curriculum.

Even greater school-by-school variability is found in the change in the number of applicants from 1970-71 through 1974-75. Although the average increase (as shown in column 13) was 144 percent, rises for individual institutions ranged all the way from less than 10 percent for two schools to a growth of over 300 percent for 6 schools. In the former category were the University of Colorado (3 percent) and Pennsylvania State University (9 percent). These two schools and others with small growth rates were mostly state schools that had

Commentary on Table 4 (cont.)

apparently clarified their geographical restriction in their admissions literature.

At the other extreme, the six medical schools showing a growth of applicants of more than 300 percent include Loma Linda (354 percent), Howard (328 percent), Medical College of Pennsylvania (612 percent), Emory (304 percent), Chicago-Pritzker (354 percent) and Brown (956 percent). Some of these rapid increases are undoubtedly due to affirmative action programs which opened the door to more women and students of various racial/national backgrounds.

Data by type of support of school show that 46 or 40 percent of the schools were privately supported during 1974-75 and 68 or 60 percent were publicly supported. It should be noted that some of the schools categorized as privately supported also received some state aid. This is particularly true for schools in such states as Illinois, New York, and Pennsylvania. It is also noteworthy that although private schools enrolled less than 6,000 (or 41 percent) of the 14,579 new entrants, they received over 217,000 (or 60 percent) of the 362,376 applications that were filed. This discrepancy is explained in large part by the obvious fact that publicly supported schools must observe much stricter geographical residence requirements and thus receive fewer applications from out-of-state residents.

Table 5

Graduation Status and Acceptance of First-Time and Repeat Applicants to the 1974-75 Entering Class

Date Bachelor's Degree Granted or Expected	Status When Applied	First-Time Applicants				Repeat Applicants			
		Total		Accepted		Total		Accepted	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1971 or Before	Graduate	8,684	27.3	2,365	27.2	3,736	34.3	694	18.5
1972	Graduate	1,485	4.6	378	25.4	1,308	12.0	310	23.7
1973	Graduate	2,711	8.5	916	33.7	4,242	39.0	1,200	28.2
1974	Senior	17,407	54.8	7,847	45.0	1,547	14.2	706	45.6
1975 or Later	Junior or Less	1,466	4.6	634	43.2	38	.3	16	42.1
Total		31,753	99.8	12,140	38.2	10,871	99.8	2,926	26.9

Commentary on Table 5

This table presents new data never before analyzed in AAMC studies of applicants. It compares both the numbers and the acceptance success of applicants in relation to the date they were granted or expected to receive a bachelor's degree.

In terms of numbers applying, approximately 60 percent of the first-time applicants were still in undergraduate college as compared with less than 15 percent of the repeat applicants. Conversely, 39 percent of the second-time applicants graduated in 1973 as contrasted with only 8.5 percent of the "first-timers."

Relative to medical school admission, the first-time applicants had a higher success rate for all categories except seniors, where 45.6 percent of repeaters and 45.0 percent of the first-timers were offered a place. This is probably explained by the fact that the repeat applicants among the seniors were probably individuals who applied the previous year as juniors and although well qualified, were declined in favor of equally qualified candidates who were further along in their academic careers.

The discrepancy in acceptance rates was particularly marked for students who had obtained a bachelor's degree four or more years prior to admission to medical school. Whereas 27 percent of first-time applicants in that category were accepted, the comparable proportion of repeat applicants was only 18.5 percent.

Table 6

Application Frequency, Acceptance Rates, and Ability Levels, of Applicants to 1974-75 Entering Class

Frequency Groups*	Total Applicants		Accepted Applicants Per Frequency Group		Ability of Applicants: Mean MCAT Science Scores		Ability of Applicants: Mean Total GPA	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	Accepted	Not Accepted	Accepted	Not Accepted
1	7,069	16.6	2,180	14.5	596	505	3.52	3.00
2-5	11,402	26.8	3,171	21.1	584	520	3.46	3.02
6-8	8,405	19.7	2,955	19.6	601	536	3.47	3.06
9-11	5,222	12.3	2,029	13.5	606	543	3.43	3.06
12-15	4,321	10.1	1,869	12.4	611	552	3.42	3.07
16-20	2,923	6.9	1,374	9.1	620	562	3.42	3.09
21-25	1,555	3.6	680	4.5	624	574	3.41	3.11
26-30	807	1.9	379	2.5	629	574	3.40	3.10
31 and over	920	2.1	429	2.8	627	577	3.40	3.09
Total	42,624	100.0	15,066	100.0	603	532	3.45	3.05

*By number of applications per applicant

Commentary on Table 6

As reported in Table 1, the 42,624 applicants to the 1974 freshman class filed 362,376 applications or an average of 8.5 each. Analyzed by number of applications per candidate, Table 6 shows that the largest single frequency group, individuals filing 2 to 5 applications, accounted for 11,402 applicants (26.8 percent of the pool). Seventy-five percent of the entire pool filed less than 12 applications each, which compares with 77 percent of the pool for the 1973-74 first-year class. For the accepted group, more than half (55 percent) submitted fewer than nine applications each. This compares with 57 percent during the preceding year.

In terms of test scores and grades, accepted applicants showed a positive relationship between the number of applications filed and mean MCAT Science scores. Mean total GPA's, however, showed no particular relationship with number of applications submitted.

Nonaccepted applicants paralleled, but at a lower level, the trend of (a) more applications being associated with increasing mean MCAT Science scores and (b) a lack of relationship between their GPA's and the number of applications they filed. The average nonaccepted applicant, however, had MCAT Science scores that were 71 points below those of accepted applicants and grade-point averages of .40 points below the 3.45 for acceptees.

Table 7

Mean MCAT Scores of Accepted, Nonaccepted, and Total Applicants

1970-71 Through 1974-75

First-Year Class	Mean MCAT Scores: Verbal Ability	Quantitative Ability	General Information	Science	No. Taking MCAT	Percentage of Total Applicants	Total Applicants
			Accepted Applicants				
1970-71	559	606	560	558	11,434	99.4	11,500
1971-72	560	606	556	565	12,324	99.9	12,335
1972-73	562	614	555	575	13,633	99.1	13,757
1973-74	567	609	563	592	14,062	98.1	14,335
1974-75	563	611	559	603	14,943	99.2	15,066
Change from 1970-71 to 1974-75							
Number	4	4	-1	45	3,509	-.2	3,566
Percent	.7	.7	-.2	8.0	31	-.2	31
			Nonaccepted Applicants*				
1970-71	506	539	518	499	12,783	94.7	13,487
1971-72	519	549	517	510	15,941	94.7	16,837
1972-73	512	551	514	510	21,080	94.2	22,378
1973-74	518	550	521	524	25,217	96.4	26,171
1974-75	518	555	518	532	26,921	97.7	27,558
Change from 1970-71 to 1974-75							
Number	12	16		33	14,138	3.0	14,073
Percent	2.4	3.0		6.6	111	3.2	104
			Total Applicants				
1970-71	531	571	538	527	24,217	96.9	24,987
1971-72	537	574	534	534	28,265	96.9	29,172
1972-73	531	575	530	536	34,713	96.1	36,135
1973-74	535	571	536	548	39,279	97.0	40,506
1974-75	534	575	532	558	41,864	98.2	42,624
Change from 1970-71 to 1974-75							
Number	3	4	-6	31	17,647	1.3	17,637
Percent	.6	.7	-1.5	5.9	73	1	71

Commentary on Table 7

This table emphasizes that the mean MCAT scores of applicants to U.S. medical schools remained remarkably constant over the five years studied. The only exception was the Science subtest, which showed significant increases for both accepted and non-accepted applicants. Over the five-year period, the former group improved its mean Science score by 45 and the latter by 33 points.

The proportion of total applicants taking the MCAT remained at a very high level, rising from 97 percent for 1970-71 to 98 percent for 1974-75. Nonaccepted applicants taking the test rose from 95 to 98 percent while almost 100 percent of the "accepted" applicants took the test during each of the years reported.

Table 8

Comparative Acceptance Data and MCAT Scores for First-Time and Repeat Applicants, 1974-75 Entering Class

Category	Number of Individuals		Mean MCAT Scores			
		No. taking				
	Total	MCAT	VA	QA	GI	Sci
First-Year Applied for 1974-75 only						
Accepted	12,140	12,025	565	613	561	606
Not Accepted	19,613	19,012	515	554	516	530
Total	31,753	31,037	534	577	534	559
Percent Accepted	38.2	38.7				
Repeaters Applied for 1973-74 and 1974-75						
Accepted	2,926	2,918	556	598	548	591
Not Accepted	7,945	7,909	525	556	522	539
Total	10,871	10,827	533	567	529	553
Percent Accepted	26.9	27.0				

Commentary on Table 8

This table provides another new type of analysis that has not been included in recent studies of medical school applicants. A comparison of first-time versus repeat applicants shows that the MCAT scores of the former group were slightly higher than those of the latter. These differences, however, were not as great as might have been anticipated.

Another surprising finding was the fact that the mean scores of nonaccepted repeat applicants were slightly higher than the comparable scores for first-time applicants who were not accepted. This finding tends to confirm that the selection process of U.S. medical schools is based on a number of other factors above and beyond test scores.

Table 9

Mean Scores on the MCAT Subtests for Men and Women Applicants to Entering Classes, 1971-72, 1972-73, 1973-74, and 1974-75

First-Year Class	Verbal Ability		Quantitative Ability		General Information		Science		No. of Examinees		
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Total
1971-72	534	556	577	552	533	539	537	513	24,647	3,618	28,265
1972-73	527	555	580	552	528	537	539	516	29,475	5,238	34,713
1973-74	530	559	576	549	534	544	553	528	32,364	6,915	39,279
1974-75	529	552	579	557	531	539	563	534	33,356	8,508	41,864
Change from 1971-72 to 1974-75											
Number	-5	-4	+2	+5	-2	0	+26	+21	+8,709	+4,890	+13,599
Percent	-1%	-1%	*	+1%	*	0	+5%	+4%	+35%	+135%	+48%

* Less than .05 percent

Commentary on Table 9

The most important observation regarding this table is the consistency of mean MCAT scores over the four first-year classes for which such data are available.

As indicated in the "change" section of the table, the percentage shifts in Verbal Ability, Quantitative Ability, and General Information were each one percent or less for both men and women over this four-year period of time. The only sizable change was in the Science score, which rose 26 points or 5 percent for men and 21 points or 4 percent for women.

This table also highlights the impressive increase in the number of MCAT examinees, which rose from approximately 28,000 for the 1971-72 entering class to almost 42,000 for the 1974-75 class. The number of women examinees showed a particularly striking advance, growing from less than 4,000 to over 8,500, an increase of 135 percent during the four years reviewed.

Table 10

Undergraduate Grades of First Year U.S. Medical Students, 1970-71 Through 1974-75

First-Year Class	Percentage of Medical Students with Indicated Premedical Grade Averages*			
	A (3.6-4.0)	B (2.6-3.5)	C (Below 2.6)	Grades Not Reported
1970-71	19.7	73.3	7.0	-
1971-72	24.0	70.0	6.0	-
1972-73	30.9	64.3	4.8	-
1973-74	36.4	58.8	4.8	-
1974-75	39.3	50.8	3.0	6.8
Adjusted (74-5)†	42.2	54.6	3.2	
Change from 1970-71 to 1974-75 (adjusted)				
Absolute	+22.5	-18.7	-3.8	
Proportional	+114%	-26%	-54%	

*Note that grade average categories utilized in this table are from the AMA-AAMC Annual Liaison Committee on Medical Education questionnaire and are different from the GPA ranges in Table 11.

† Adjusted figures for 1974-75 assume that the 6.8 percent of students with unreported grades are evenly distributed in other categories.

Source: First 5 rows of data are from reports published by the American Medical Association.

Commentary on Table 10

This table indicates that the changes in the overall pre-medical grade-point averages of entering students were much greater during the five years under study than were the comparable changes in MCAT scores reported in Table 7.

Whereas the mean MCAT Science scores of accepted applicants rose by only about eight percent from 1970 to 1974, Table 10 shows that the proportion of admitted students with A averages (3.6 or higher) increased from less than 20 percent to more than 40 percent. Entrants with B averages dropped from 73 percent of the 1970-71 first-year class to 55 percent of the 1974-75 entering class, while comparable figures for students with C averages dropped from 7 percent to approximately 3 percent.

The above findings may reflect in part th "grade inflation" that has been increasingly reported in The Chronicle of Higher Education and other media during the past several years. However, it may also reflect the increasingly severe competition for places in medical schools and the expanded pool of qualified applicants available for selection by admissions committees.

Theoretically, it would be possible to admit first-year classes almost entirely from students with averages of 3.6

Commentary on Table 10 (cont.)

or better (see Table 11). Nevertheless, it is gratifying to see evidence that admissions committees are accepting individuals with slightly lower grade-point averages but with presumably stronger overall personal qualifications than that which characterizes some of their counterparts with superior numerical credentials.

Incidentally, a chi-square comparison of the undergraduate college GPA's of students entering medical school in 1970-71 and in 1974-75 shows that the differences are statistically significant at the .005 level.

Table 11

Distribution of Applicants and Acceptees by Undergraduate College Grade-Point Average (GPA) and by Scores on the Science Subtest of the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) for the 1974-75 Entering Class

GPA RANGES	Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) Science Subtest Scores												Total	ACC APP	ACC%
	800-700		699-600		599-500		499-400		399-300		299-200		NO SCORE				
4.00 A	70 74	94.6	185 216	85.6	63 85	74.1	5 12	41.7	0 3	0.0	0 0	0.0	1 2	50.0	324 392	82.6	
3.30-3.99 A- TO B+	882 1052	83.8	5215 7301	71.4	2862 5900	48.5	488 1734	28.1	41 215	19.1	3 14	21.4	8 99	8.1	9,499 16,315	58.2	
3.00-3.29 B	109 241	45.2	1028 2896	35.5	844 3836	22.0	231 1735	13.3	41 328	12.5	1 23	4.3	1 57	1.7	2,255 9,116	24.7	
2.30-2.99 B- TO C+	36 144	25.0	416 2024	20.5	512 3682	13.9	335 2676	12.5	90 978	9.2	3 90	3.3	5 156	3.2	1,397 9,750	14.3	
2.00-2.29 C	2 11	18.2	15 93	16.1	43 268	16.0	45 348	12.9	8 218	3.7	1 26	3.8	1 31	3.2	115 995	11.5	
0.00-1.99 BELOW C	0 1	0.0	3 11	27.3	6 41	14.6	10 72	13.9	0 75	0.0	0 22	0.0	0 12	0.0	19 234	8.1	
NO GRADES	109 164	66.5	497 1173	42.4	521 1988	26.2	188 1394	13.4	35 612	5.7	0 94	0.0	107 397	26.9	1,457 5,822	25.0	
TOTAL	1,208 1,687	71.6	7,359 13,71	53.6	4,851 15,800	30.7	1,302 7,971	16.3	215 2,429	8.8	8 269	3.0	123 754	16.3	15,066 42,624	35.3	

Commentary on Table 11

The data in this table provide a distribution by various combinations of GPA and MCAT Science subtest scores for both applicants and acceptees for the 1974-75 entering class. For each cell, the proportion of accepted applicants is shown to the right of the number of applicants and acceptees.

Although the GPA ranges in this table are different numerically, the letter grades are the same as those reported in the 1972-73 and 1973-74 AAMC studies of applicants. The numerical grade ranges in Table 11 are somewhat stricter than those used in the past and reflect the new "grading systems conversion table" that appears on page 7 of the AMCAS Instruction Booklet for the 1976-77 entering class. In view of the increasingly competitive admissions situation and the trend toward "grade inflation," it is believed that the new GPA ranges probably provide a more realistic picture of an applicant's chances for admission than did the similar tables published previously.

As expected, Table 11 indicates a favorable acceptance rate for individuals with both high grades and high MCAT Science scores. However, it also shows that some applicants with relatively undistinguished numerical credentials were admitted, and some with outstanding ones were rejected. For example, 9 percent (90 out of 978) were accepted with GPA's of B- to C+

Commentary on Table 11 (cont.)

and MCAT Science scores in the 300s; and 14 percent (31 of 216) were not accepted even though they had straight A averages and MCAT scores in the 600s. These data illustrate the fact that the medical school selection process is based not only on grades and test scores but also on such factors as personality, character, health, place of residence, career plans, letters of evaluation, stringency of course work, and interview impressions.

Chi-square tests confirm the high statistical significance of the differences between the accepted and nonaccepted students with respect to both their Science MCAT scores and their undergraduate college grade-point averages. In both cases, the differences calculated from Table 11 were significant at the .005 level.

Table 12

Acceptance to Medical School by Undergraduate Major

for 1974-75 Entering Class

Undergraduate Major	Total Applicants No.	Total Applicants Percent	Accepted Applicants	Percent of Applicants Accepted *
Biology	14,992	35.2	5,079	34
Chemistry	4,857	11.4	2,072	43
Zoology	3,460	8.1	1,095	32
Psychology	2,934	6.9	972	33
Pre Medical	2,780	6.5	996	36
Biochemistry	1,037	2.4	467	45
Microbiology	826	1.9	252	31
Mathematics	780	1.8	312	40
English	650	1.5	263	41
Chemistry and Biology	573	1.3	242	42
Pharmacy	565	1.3	119	21
History	519	1.2	194	37
Physics	511	1.2	200	39
Natural Sciences	428	1.0	190	44
Electrical Engineering	363	0.9	113	31
Medical Technology	344	0.8	68	20
Science (Other Biological)	313	0.7	123	39
Political Science	302	0.7	102	34
Philosophy	294	0.7	124	42
Sociology	274	0.6	85	31
Chemical Engineering	272	0.6	113	42
Engineering (Unspecified)	262	0.6	82	31
Foreign Language	262	0.6	102	39
Pre-Professional	250	0.6	113	45

Continues.....

* Proportion of applicants with specified major who were offered a place by one or more medical schools.

Table 12 (continued)

Acceptance to Medical School by Undergraduate Major

for 1974-75 Entering Class

Undergraduate Major	Total Applicants No.	Total Applicants Percent	Accepted Applicants	Percent of Applicants Accepted *
Economics	226	0.5	82	36
No Major	216	0.5	118	55
Anthropology	210	0.5	83	40
Physiology	208	0.5	68	33
Psychobiology	207	0.5	86	42
Nursing	205	0.5	51	25
Interdisciplinary	170	0.4	98	58
Biomedical Engineering	164	0.4	72	44
General Studies	148	0.3	52	35
Business	139	0.3	27	19
Mechanical Engineering	139	0.3	41	30
Education	134	0.3	27	20
Social Science	111	0.3	38	34
Science (Other Physical)	100	0.2	29	29
Subtotal majors with 100+ Applicants	40,225	94.4	14,350	36
Other Known Majors	881	2.1	209	24
Not Specified	1,518	3.6	507	33
Total or average	42,624	100.0	15,066	35

* Proportion of applicants with specified major who were offered a place by one or more medical schools.

Commentary on Table 12

This table reports applicant and acceptance information related to all those undergraduate majors taken by 100 or more applicants each to the 1974-75 entering class.

As indicated in this rank order table, biology continues to be the most popular major, with almost 15,000 or 35 percent of the applicant pool reporting this choice. Chemistry, zoology, psychology, premedicine, and biochemistry also each have more than 1,000 applicants selecting these as their major subjects. A sizeable number of applicants, however, also majored in such non-natural science fields as English, history, political science, philosophy and sociology. A significant number also majored in related medical fields such as medical technology and nursing.

From the viewpoint of acceptance success, candidates majoring in chemistry, mathematics, and natural sciences tended to have a slightly higher success rate than applicants in general. On the other hand, a number of nonscience majors, including English, philosophy, anthropology, and interdisciplinary majors had equally high success ratios.

Among those majors with the lowest proportion of applicants accepted were some of the other professional fields such as medical technology, nursing, and education.

Table 13

Comparative Acceptance Data for Men and Women Applicants, 1970-71 Through 1974-75

First-Year Class	Men					Women				
	No. of Applicants	No. of Applications	Average No. Applications Per Man	No. Accepted	Percent Accepted	No. of Applicants	No. of Applications	Average No. Applications Per Woman	No. Accepted	Percent Accepted
1970-71	22,253	134,277	6.0	10,203	45.9	2,734	14,520	5.3	1,297	47.4
1971-72	25,435	186,819	7.3	10,650	41.9	3,737	24,124	6.5	1,685	45.1
1972-73	30,655	228,585	7.5	11,398	37.2	5,480	38,721	7.1	2,359	43.0
1973-74	33,304	271,630	8.2	11,488	34.5	7,202	56,645	7.8	2,847	39.5
1974-75	33,912	288,962	8.5	11,674	34.4	8,712	73,413	8.4	3,392	38.9
Change from 1970-71 to 1974-75										
Number	11,659	154,685	2.5	1,471	-11.5	5,978	58,893	3.1	2,095	-8.5
Percent	52%	115%	42%	14%	-25%	219%	406%	58%	162%	-18%

Commentary on Table 13

This table confirms the fact that the admissions picture for women applicants has changed much more dramatically than that for men over the five-year period under review.

Whereas the number of male applicants grew by 52 percent, women applicants grew numerically by over 200 percent. Comparable figures for number of applications rose by 115 percent for men and by over 400 percent for women. This is explained, in part, by the overall increase in the average number of applications filed, which amounted to an additional 3.1 for women as compared to an added 2.5 for men.

In spite of the 400 percent increase in application activity on the part of women, the absolute number of men accepted rose substantially from approximately 10,000 for 1970-71 to almost 11,700 in 1974-75, an increase of approximately 14 percent. The number of accepted women, on the other hand, more than doubled, advancing from less than 1,300 to over 3,300, a gain of over 160 percent.

The proportion of applicants who were accepted to one or more medical schools dropped for both men and women, decreasing by 25 percent for males and by 18 percent for females. Nevertheless, the differential between the two groups in percent accepted widened over the five years studied. This differential went from 1.5 percent (45.9 for men vs. 47.4 for women) for 1970-71 to 4.5 percent (34.4 vs. 38.9) for 1974-75.

Table 14

Acceptance Rates of Applicants by Age, 1974-75 Entering Class

Age*	All Applicants				Accepted Applicants					
		Number			Total		Men		Women	
	Percent	Total	Men	Women	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Total	100	42,624	33,912	8,712	15,066	35.3	11,674	34.4	3,390	38.9
20 and under	4.8	2,030	1,407	623	1,121	55.3	787	56.0	335	53.8
21-23	63.0	26,832	21,718	5,114	10,869	40.5	8,676	39.9	2,192	42.9
24-27	22.9	9,749	7,738	2,011	2,316	23.8	1,694	21.9	622	30.9
28-31	6.7	2,836	2,187	649	602	21.2	425	19.4	176	27.3
32-37	2.0	843	601	242	142	16.8	83	13.8	59	24.4
38 and over	0.4	181	123	58	12	6.6	6	4.9	6	10.3
Unknown	0.4	153	138	15	3	2.0	3	2.3	0	0.0
Mean Ages		23.8	23.8	23.9	22.6		22.5		22.8	

*As of September, 1974.

Oldest male applicant was 61; and oldest female applicant was 57. Oldest accepted male was 42; and oldest accepted female was 39.

Commentary on Table 14

Age distributions of applicants to the 1974-75 entering class closely resemble that of previous years. Five percent of all applicants were under 21 years of age; the largest proportion (63 percent) were between 21 and 23; and less than 10 percent were over 27. Of the 21-23 year olds, almost 11,000 (41 percent) were accepted, while 55 percent of the small group of applicants below age 21 were successful.

Acceptance percentages for all age groups of men were below those recorded for the 1973-74 entering class. For women, however, a larger proportion of individuals aged 24 or above were admitted for 1974 than for 1973. In every category except for the individuals age 20 and under, women applicants had higher acceptance percentages than men.

As indicated in the footnote to Table 14, the oldest male applicant was age 61 and the oldest male acceptee was 42. Comparable figures for women were 57 for applicants and 39 for acceptees.

Table 15

Women Applicants to U.S. Medical Schools and Women New Entrants, 1970-71 Through 1974-75 First Year Classes

First-Year Class	Total Applicants	Women Applicants No.	Women Applicants Percent	Total New Entrants*	Women New Entrants No.	Women New Entrants Percent
1970-71	24,987	2,734	10.9	11,169	1,228	11.0
1971-72	29,172	3,737	12.8	12,088	1,653	13.7
1972-73	36,135	5,480	15.2	13,352	2,251	16.9
1973-74	40,506	7,202	17.8	13,876	2,726	19.6
1974-75	42,624	8,712	20.4	14,578	3,263	22.4
Change from 1970-71 to 1974-75						
Number	17,637	5,978	9.5	3,409	2,035	11,4
Percent	71%	219%	87%	31%	166%	104%

* Excludes Repeating and Reentering Students

Commentary on Table 15

This table further highlights the impressive increase in women applicants and entrants over the five first-year classes under study. While the total number of applicants rose by 71 percent during this period, the number of women applicants grew by over 200 percent. Similarly, the total number of new entrants rose from approximately 1,200 to over 3,000 or 166 percent.

As indicated in the table, these changes were consistent for each of the years studied. Preliminary data for the 1975-76 and 1976-77 first-year classes suggest a continuance of these general trends, at least in the "new entrant" category.

Table 16

Self-Description of Applicants and Acceptees to U.S. Medical Schools, 1974-75 First-Year Class

Self-Description	Applicants		Acceptances		
	Number	Percent all Applicants	Number	Percent all Acceptees	Percent of Applicants Accepted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Total	42,624	100.0	15,066	100.0	35.3
Black/Afro-American	2,423	5.6	1,049	7.0	43.3
American Indian	134	0.3	64	0.4	47.8
White/Caucasian	36,090	84.6	12,775	84.8	35.4
Mexican/American or Chicano	440	1.0	217	1.4	49.3
Oriental/Asian-American	1,226	2.8	349	2.3	28.5
Puerto Rican (Mainland)	177	0.4	76	0.5	42.9
Puerto Rican (Commonwealth)	280	0.6	102	0.7	36.4
Cuban	177	0.4	68	0.5	38.4
Other	1,012	2.3	213	1.4	21.0
No Response	665	1.5	153	1.0	23.0

Commentary on Table 16

This table compares the proportion of individuals from various self-described racial/national backgrounds who applied and were offered places in the 1974-75 first-year class. Also included is a single figure showing the applicant to acceptee ratio for each group.

For example, whereas black Americans constituted only 5.6 percent of the applicant pool, they represented 7.0 percent of all acceptees, giving them an acceptance ratio of 43.3 percent, compared with the national ratio of 35.3 percent. According to the statistical references in Appendix C, this difference is significant at the 5 percent level.

Similar findings are also evident for most of the other racial minority groups, with the acceptance percentages being 48 percent for American Indians, 49 percent for Mexican Americans, 43 percent for Mainland Puerto Ricans and 38 percent for Cubans.

As could be predicted, the acceptance rate for Caucasians was essentially the same as for the applicant pool as a whole, since they constituted approximately 85 percent of all applicants.

The only groups that were less well represented among the acceptees than their proportion in the total applicant pool were Oriental Americans, those with "other" unspecified backgrounds,

Commentary on Table 16 (cont.)

and applicants who chose not to respond to the self-description question on the AMCAS application form or on the MCAT questionnaire.

It is possible that the lower than usual acceptance ratio of Orientals may be related to the fact that many of them are from California, which traditionally has a rather low ratio of acceptees to applicants.

Table 17

Comparison of the Sex Distribution of Minority-Group and Total Students Enrolled in the 1971-72 and 1974-75 First-Year Classes

Groups	1971-72 Total	1971-72 Men	1971-72 Women	1971-72 Percent Women	1974-75 Total	1974-75 Men	1974-75 Women	1974-75 Percent Women
Total Students	12,361	10,668	1,693	13.7	14,763	11,488	3,275	22.2
Underrepresented Minorities								
Black American	882	682	200	22.7	1,106	729	377	34.1
American Indian	23	15	8	34.8	71	54	17	23.9
Mexican American	118	108	10	8.5	227	179	48	21.1
Puerto Rican mainland	40	34	6	15.0	69	49	20	29.0
Subtotal	1,063	839	224	21.1	1,473	1,011	462	31.4
Other U.S. minorities								
American Oriental	217	175	42	19.4	275	197	78	28.4
Other *	-	-	-	-	91	68	23	25.3
Subtotal	217	175	42	19.4	366	265	101	27.6
Total minorities	1,280	1,014	266	20.8	1,839	1,276	563	30.6

*Data not collected for 1971-72.

Source - AAMC Student Record Files and Fall Enrollment questionnaires.

Data for 1974-75 do not include an additional 157 students admitted to New York Medical College in the spring of 1975.

Commentary on Table 17

This table emphasizes not only the rather substantial growth from 1971-72 to 1974-75 in number of first-year minority students but also the rapid gain in numbers and proportions of women medical students from minority groups.

For example, the total number of minority group students rose from 1,280 in 1971-72 to 1,839 in 1974-75, an increase of 44 percent. Comparable figures for women members of minority groups rose from 266 (or 20.8 percent) of all minority first-year students in 1971-72 to 563 (or 30.6 percent) of all first-year minority enrollees in 1974-75.

Except for American Indian women, these general trends were experienced by all subcategories of minority students that are summarized on Table 17.

Table 18

MCAT Scores and Undergraduate College Grades (GPA) of Applicants by Self-Description, 1974-75 Entering Class*

Applicants by Self-Description	Applicant Pool		Mean MCAT Scores				Grade Point Average
	Total Number	Percent	VA	QA	Gen	Sci	
Total	42,624	100%	534	575	532	558	3.20
Black/Afro-American	2,423	6	435	454	441	431	2.67
American Indian	134	**	504	510	501	498	2.94
White/Caucasian	36,090	85	544	584	542	569	3.23
Mexican/American or Chicano	440	1	475	510	485	485	2.86
Oriental/Asian-American	1,226	3	501	609	495	564	3.25
Puerto Rican (Mainland)	177	**	459	474	468	456	2.86
Puerto Rican (Commonwealth)	280	1	435	492	450	440	3.15
Cuban	177	**	483	542	501	523	3.12
Other	1,012	2	495	554	496	528	3.14
No Response	665	2	556	578	560	563	3.13

*Number with MCAT scores - 41,864; number with known GPAs - 36,802.
**Less than 0.5 percent.

Commentary on Table 18

This table summarizes means of (a) Medical College Admission Test scores and (b) undergraduate college grade-point averages by self-described racial/national background of applicants to the 1974-75 first-year class.

In general, the highest MCAT scores were recorded for applicants who identified themselves as Caucasians or Oriental Americans or who elected not to respond to the racial/national background question. Mean MCAT scores were somewhat lower for applicants describing themselves as Black American, Puerto Ricans, and Mexican Americans.

Differences in the mean grade-point averages for the various self-described groups were not as marked as those observed for their MCAT scores. Although this phenomenon may be partly related to the grading standards of undergraduate colleges attended, it may also be related to the way in which these two types of measures are derived. For whereas the grade-point average reflects three to four years of academic performance, the MCAT scores are derived from a one-time four hour examination.

Although not shown in this table, the mean MCAT scores and GPA's of the accepted applicants are higher than the means of all applicants for each of the categories listed in the self-description column.

Table 19

MCAT Scores and Undergraduate College Grades (GPA) of Applicants by Father's Occupation, 1974-75 Entering Class*

Father's Occupation	Applicant Pool		Mean MCAT Scores				Grade Point Average
	Total Number	Percent	VA	QA	Gen	Sci	
Total	42,624	100	534	575	532	558	3.20
Physician	4,880	11	544	575	541	560	3.15
Other Health Profession	1,688	4	540	582	538	567	3.25
Health Worker (Non-Professional)	91	--	501	525	500	504	3.02
Other Profession	9,412	22	551	589	545	572	3.24
Owner, Manager, Administrator (Non-Farm)	10,433	24	538	583	537	564	3.22
Clerical or Sales Worker	2,426	6	532	578	533	560	3.22
Transport or Equipment Operative	642	2	505	543	509	531	3.14
Craftsman, Skilled Worker	4,254	10	521	561	522	546	3.18
Unskilled Workers, Laborers, Private Household Worker (Non-Farm)	1,926	5	490	530	496	513	3.06
Farmer, Farm Managers	986	2	496	551	495	537	3.24
Farm Foreman, Farm Laborers	188	--	489	533	486	515	3.05
Homemaker	28	--	517	553	511	532	3.13
Other	3,942	9	520	567	521	545	3.19

Table 19 (cont.)

MCAT Scores and Undergraduate College Grades (GPA) of Applicants by Father's Occupation, 1974-75 Entering Class*

Father's Occupation	Applicant Pool Total Number	Percent	Mean MCAT Scores VA	QA	Gen	Sci	Grade Point Average
No Response	1,728	4	539	571	538	552	2.97

*Number with MCAT Scores - 41,864; number with known GPAs - 36,802 - Less than 0.5 percent.

Commentary on Table 19

This table gives a somewhat more complete occupational breakdown than provided in previous AAMC studies. Additional categories include "health workers (nonprofessional)," "transport and equipment operators," and subcategories of farmers into the managerial and the working levels.

In general, the proportions of applicants with fathers in the various occupational groups appear to be comparable to those shown in previous AAMC studies. The percentage of physicians' children, however, was slightly less than that of most studies in the past when averages were 13 to 14 percent. This change may be due in part to the large increase in the size of the overall applicant pool, which rose from less than 25,000 for the 1970-71 first-year class to almost 43,000 for 1974-75.

Although the average undergraduate grade-point average of applicants who were physicians' children (3.15) was very slightly below the national mean of 3.20, their mean MCAT scores were generally above the national average, suggesting that they may have attended somewhat more demanding undergraduate colleges than did the remainder of the applicant pool.

The mean grade-point averages for applicants from all socioeconomic backgrounds were similar, ranging from a low of 2.97 for the "no response" category to a high of 3.24 for the

Commentary on Table 19 (cont.)

"other professions" and "farm managers" categories.

MCAT scores, however, showed somewhat more variation. For example, mean Science MCAT's ranged from a low of 504 for children of nonprofessional health workers to a high of 572 for children of fathers who were in professions other than health. These differences are probably also explained in part by the undergraduate college attended.

For information concerning father's occupation for accepted vs. nonaccepted applicants, see Appendix Table A-2.

Table 20

Applicants and Applications by Place of Residence and Sex, 1974-75 First-Year Class

(and total comparative data for 1970-71)

State of Residence	Applicants Receiving One or More Acceptances						Total Number of Applicants						Number of Applications			
	1974-75			1970-71	Increase		1974-75			1970-71	Increase		1974-75	1970-71	Increase	
	Men	Women	Total	Total	No.	Percent	Total Men	Total Women	Total Applicants	Total Applicants	No.	Percent	Total	Total	No.	Percent
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)
Alabama	179	57	236	123	113	92	409	104	513	293	220	75	2666	951	1715	180
Alaska	8	3	11	7	4	57	29	8	37	15	22	147	295	83	212	255
Arizona	71	19	90	91	-1	-1	333	70	403	210	193	92	2861	927	1934	209
Arkansas	118	18	136	128	8	6	326	46	372	204	168	82	1077	398	679	171
California	874	309	1183	833	350	42	3162	933	4095	2246	1849	82	50941	17119	33822	198
Colorado	115	45	160	117	43	37	362	94	456	219	237	108	3294	1059	2235	211
Connecticut	168	52	220	169	51	30	493	143	636	395	241	61	8095	3333	4762	143
Delaware	25	8	33	28	5	18	85	17	102	47	55	117	897	312	585	188
District of Columbia	43	22	65	97	-32	-33	129	63	192	168	24	14	1411	808	603	75
Florida	317	70	387	275	112	40	989	185	1174	648	526	81	8662	3243	5419	167
Georgia	236	52	288	213	75	35	569	123	692	461	231	50	3727	1548	2179	141
Hawaii	63	19	82	56	26	46	195	48	243	95	148	156	1663	469	1194	255
Idaho	18	6	24	28	-4	-14	61	12	73	74	-1	-1	646	473	173	37
Illinois	744	163	907	604	303	50	1864	475	2339	1255	1084	86	19660	6816	12844	188
Indiana	268	73	341	326	15	5	685	161	846	611	235	38	4162	2098	2064	98
Iowa	156	31	187	171	16	9	362	75	437	308	129	42	2195	1266	929	73
Kansas	131	46	177	136	41	30	317	79	396	267	129	48	1771	822	949	115
Kentucky	189	55	244	198	46	23	499	118	617	349	268	77	2504	1041	1463	141
Louisiana	237	55	292	224	68	30	638	124	762	438	324	74	3481	1262	2219	176
Maine	30	8	38	18	20	111	84	30	114	67	47	70	1124	475	649	137
Maryland	252	81	333	272	61	22	703	227	930	545	385	71	7970	3100	4870	157
Massachusetts	262	81	343	323	20	6	840	282	1122	727	395	54	13076	6931	6145	89
Michigan	486	142	628	458	170	37	1535	402	1937	1024	913	89	12904	4850	8054	166
Minnesota	302	63	365	240	125	52	724	156	880	424	456	108	5378	1752	3626	207

Applicants and Applications by Place of Residence and Sex, 1974-75 First-Year Class

(and total comparative data for 1970-71)

State of Residence	Applicants Receiving One or More Acceptances						Total Number of Applicants						Number of Applications			
	1974-75			1970-71	Increase		Total	Total	Total	Total	Increase		1974-75	1970-71	Increase	
	Men	Women	Total	Total	No.	Percent	Men	Women	Applicants	Applicants	No.	Percent	Total	Total	No.	Percent
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)
Mississippi	135	33	168	133	35	26	339	78	417	242	175	72	1463	635	828	130
Missouri	252	57	309	176	133	76	679	136	815	386	429	111	5247	1879	3368	179
Montana	22	11	33	33	0	0	76	17	93	69	24	35	903	471	432	92
Nebraska	154	34	188	125	63	50	397	80	477	268	209	78	1913	627	1286	205
Nevada	37	10	47	16	31	194	92	21	113	43	70	163	513	361	152	42
New Hampshire	17	4	21	26	-5	-19	55	11	66	55	11	20	628	333	295	89
New Jersey	404	121	525	493	32	6	1268	329	1597	1231	366	30	18829	10294	8535	83
New Mexico	60	28	88	49	39	80	220	70	290	111	179	161	1528	386	1142	296
New York	1461	520	1981	1489	492	33	3910	1220	5130	3448	1682	49	79150	33244	45906	138
North Carolina	191	47	238	198	40	20	553	131	684	410	274	67	4281	1637	2644	162
North Dakota	61	9	70	51	19	37	114	18	132	76	56	74	500	186	314	169
Ohio	544	149	693	525	168	32	1443	325	1768	1107	661	60	14204	6497	7707	119
Oklahoma	139	27	166	159	7	4	407	80	487	282	205	73	1870	934	936	100
Oregon	105	31	136	93	43	46	300	75	375	183	192	105	2479	896	1583	177
Pennsylvania	716	259	975	747	228	30	2058	591	2649	1724	925	54	23717	10928	12789	117
Rhode Island	30	13	43	29	14	48	93	31	124	90	34	38	1250	902	348	39

Applicants and Applications by Place of Residence and Sex, 1974-75 First-Year Class

(and total comparative data for 1970-71)

State of Residence	Applicants Receiving One or More Acceptances						Total Number of Applicants						Number of Applications			
	1974-75			1970-71	Increase		1974-75			1970-71	Increase		1974-75	1970-71	Increase	
	Men	Women	Total	Total	No.	Percent	Men	Women	Total Applicants	Total Applicants	No.	Percent	Total	Total	No.	Percent
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)
South Carolina	146	40	186	150	36	24	443	89	532	266	266	100	2177	795	1382	174
South Dakota	56	14	70	42	28	67	101	30	131	66	65	98	407	176	231	131
Tennessee	228	49	277	257	20	8	690	136	826	391	435	111	2586	1136	1450	128
Texas	609	156	765	507	258	51	1578	354	1932	1051	881	84	12724	4871	7853	161
Utah	90	14	104	89	15	17	339	34	373	218	155	71	2425	1166	1259	108
Vermont	25	25	50	43	7	16	100	40	140	67	73	109	1078	230	848	369
Virginia	277	73	350	238	112	47	629	179	808	455	353	78	5283	1940	3343	172
Washington	122	38	160	160	0	0	360	109	469	297	172	58	3875	1684	2191	130
West Virginia	79	16	95	99	-4	-4	211	44	255	187	68	36	1064	643	421	65
Wisconsin	195	67	262	226	36	16	553	154	707	437	270	62	4429	2354	2075	88
Wyoming	21	5	26	18	8	44	39	7	46	35	11	31	430	197	233	118
Puerto Rico	87	39	126	102	24	24	231	126	357	248	109	44	1209	497	712	143
Other U.S. Poss.	2	0	2	2	0	0	11	2	13	9	4	44	101	46	55	120
Canada	5	0	5	23	-18	-78	45	9	54	189	-135	-71	107	646	-539	-83
Foreign	112	25	137	67	70	104	1185	211	1396	256	1140	445	5546	1070	4476	418
Total	11,674	3,392	15,066	11,500	3,566	31	33,912	8,712	42,624	24,987	17,637	71	362,376	148,797	213,579	144

Commentary on Table 20

The residence data in this table indicate a substantial overall increase in applicants and applications for U.S. medical schools from most states and areas over the years from 1970 to 1974. There were, however, interesting variations by geographical area.

Canadian applicants, for example, decreased by 135 or 71 percent, from 189 for the 1970-71 first-year class to 54 for the 1974-75 entering class. As a result, the total number of applications filed by the Canadians as well as the number accepted also dropped substantially. Other foreign residents, on the other hand, showed a more than 400 percent rise in both the number of applicants and applications and doubled their number of accepted students from 67 in 1970-71 to 137 for 1974-75.

Limiting our analysis to the United States, only one state (Idaho showed a decrease in the total number of applicants (from 1970 to 1974) and only 5 states or districts (Arizona, District of Columbia, Idaho, New Hampshire, and West Virginia) showed a decrease in the number of their residents receiving one or more acceptance.

All states showed a growth in the number of applications ranging from a low of 37 percent for Idaho to a high of 369 percent for Vermont. Eight states showed a growth of more than 200 percent in the number of applications filed by their residents, while 13 states had gains of less than 100 percent.

Table 21

Geographic Origins of First-Year Foreign Nationals in U.S. Medical Schools, 1970-71 Through 1974-75

Geographical Area	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	Change from 1970 No.	Change from 1970 Percent
Total	230	239	241	217	219	-11	-5
(Total Men/Women)	(200/30)	(198/41)	(189/52)	(176/41)	(165/54)	(-35/+24)	(-18/+80)
Africa	46	32	34	28	42	-4	-9
Americas	90	88	98	87	86	-4	-4
Central and South America	(79)	(69)	(72)	(74)	(70)	(-9)	(-11)
Canada	(11)	(19)	(26)	(13)	(16)	(5)	(46)
Asia	53	69	77	61	60	7	13
Europe	30	36	18	25	22	-8	-27
Middle East	9	11	6	11	6	-3	-33
Oceania	2	3	6	3	2	0	-
Stateless	0	0	2	2	1	1	100
No. of U.S. Medical Schools Enrolling Foreign First-Year Students	71	67	69	61	87	16	23

Source - AAMC Fall Enrollment Questionnaires

Commentary on Table 21

Whereas Table 20 is based on the place of legal residence of the applicants at the time of application, Table 21 reports on the citizenship status of students in the first-year class. Nevertheless, some of the students included in Table 21 had permanent residence status, others held temporary visas and almost all of them were completing their premedical studies in the United States. Since some of the permanent residents were listed under one of the states in Table 20 rather than as foreign students, the totals do not agree. Another difference in Table 20 is caused by its limitation to applicants for new places in the first-year class while Table 21 includes repeaters and reentrants.

Being aware of these limitations and differences in the data, several pertinent generalizations can be made concerning Table 21. Although the number of U.S. medical schools enrolling foreign first-year students rose from 71 in 1970-71 to 87 in 1974-75, the totals of foreign first-year students dropped slightly (by 5 percent) from 230 to 219.

There are also several interesting changes in sex distributions and in geographical area of origin. For example, the number of foreign women enrolled actually increased from 30 to 54 while the number of men decreased from 200 to 165. Similarly, there were slight increases in the number of students from Canada and Asia and slight decreases in numbers of students

Commentary on Table 21 (cont.)

from Africa, Central and South America, Europe, and the Middle East. Their absolute numbers are so small, however, that their statistical significance is questionable.

On the whole, it is obvious that the proportion of first-year foreign nationals in U.S. medical schools remains at a very low level, averaging only about two students per school per first-year class. This is due in large part to the intense competition for places from the tens of thousands of candidates who are U.S. citizens.

Table 22

MCAT Scores and Undergraduate College Grades (GPA) of Applicants by General Career Activity Plans, 1974-75 Entering Class*

General Career Activity Plans	Applicant Pool		Mean MCAT Scores				Grade Point Average
	Total Number	Percent	VA	QA	Gen	Sci	
Total	42,624	100	534	575	532	558	3.20
General Practice	15,919	37	526	565	527	549	3.16
Specialty Practice	11,463	27	526	568	525	546	3.19
Research and/or Teaching	1,697	4	540	595	539	583	3.22
Combination of Specialty Practice, Research, and/or Teaching	7,382	17	548	592	544	576	3.24
Other Medical Field	409	1	548	572	544	548	3.16
Other Non-Medical Field	59		522	567	501	532	3.07
Undecided	4,442	10	553	592	548	578	3.30
No Response	1,253	3	547	576	546	556	2.93

*Number with MCAT scores - 41,864; number with known GPAs - 36,802

- less than 0.5 percent.

Commentary on Table 22

This table summarizes the general career activity plans and ability levels of all applicants to the 1974-75 entering class as reported when they took the MCAT. Almost all individuals are in the mean MCAT score calculations, but only about 39,000 (or 91 percent) of the 43,000 applicants had known grade-point averages. Those without known GPA's either did not participate in AMCAS for the 1974-75 entering class or attended undergraduate colleges that awarded nontraditional grades.

Of special interest is the finding that 38 percent of the 1974-75 applicants were interested in eventual careers in general practice, even though this question was answered by most applicants when taking the MCAT in 1973. This represents a substantial rise over the 27 percent of applicants for the 1972-73 first-year class who were aiming for general practice careers.

Moreover, the mean MCAT scores of the general practice aspirants were at least comparable to the scores of those individuals aiming for specialty practices; and their grade-point averages were essentially the same (3.16 versus 3.19). Similar data for 1972-73 applicants showed the general practice aspirants to be consistently lower than the specialty aspirants on all four MCAT subtests and in their grade-point averages.

It would appear, therefore, that even as long ago as 1973, the interest in eventual careers in primary care was growing and was attracting an increasing number of high ability students. For further details on 1974-75 applicants, see Appendix Table A-3.

Table 23

MCAT Scores and Undergraduate College Grades (GPA) of Applicants by Specialization Plans, 1974-75 Entering Class*

Specialization Plans	Applicant Pool		Mean MCAT Scores				Grade Point Average
	Total Number	Percent	VA	QA	Gen	Sci	
(1)	...						
Total	42,624	100	534	575	532	558	3.20
Basic Medical Science	1,162	3	544	595	542	586	3.23
Family Practice	10,226	24	532	565	531	551	3.17
Internal Medicine	2,930	7	536	573	532	564	3.17
Obstetrics/Gynecology	1,234	3	505	540	505	512	3.09
Pediatrics	3,588	8	521	566	523	541	3.20
Psychiatry	1,499	4	566	576	564	557	3.19
Public Health, Community Medicine	1,981	5	542	562	541	545	3.12
Surgery	3,830	9	505	568	508	543	3.16
Surgical Sub-Specialty	1,622	4	529	579	528	559	3.18
Other Specialty (Known)	1,872	4	547	587	542	571	3.19
Plan to Specialize (Area Unknown)	3,557	8	546	595	543	577	3.31
Do Not Plan to Specialize	2,238	5	524	569	525	550	3.17
Undecided	5,589	13	549	595	544	580	3.31
No Response	1,296	3	542	574	544	554	2.93

* Number with MCAT scores - 41,864; number with known GPAs - 36,802

Commentary on Table 23

Of all the specialty options listed on the MCAT questionnaire, Table 23 shows that family practice was the most popular category for the 1974-75 applicant pool, for it was listed by 24 percent of these individuals. Among other popular potential specialties were surgery (9 percent), pediatrics (8 percent), and internal medicine (7 percent).

Individuals aiming for basic medical science, other known specialties, and other unknown specialties tended to have slightly higher science MCAT scores than did applicants in general. This was also true of those who were undecided concerning their specialty plans. Similar trends were evident for grade-point averages, suggesting that some of the higher-achieving students may have tended to keep their options open a little longer than some of the applicants of lesser academic records. Applicants aiming for family practice again showed ability levels generally comparable with the total applicant pool.

The difference in the number of individuals interested in general practice in Table 22 and those noting their tentative specialty as family practice in Table 23 is undoubtedly explained in large part by the narrower definition of "family practice" than that of "general practice." For further information concerning the specialization plans of accepted vs. non-accepted candidates, see Appendix Table A-4.

Table 24

MCAT Scores and Undergraduate College Grades (GPA) of Applicants by Expected Character of Medical Practice, 1974-75 Entering Class*

Expected Character of Practice	Applicant Pool		Mean MCAT Scores				Grade Point Average
	Total Number	Percent	VA	QA	Gen	Sci	
Total	42,624	100	534	575	532	558	3.20
Individual	8,062	19	528	569	529	553	3.17
Partnership	7,487	18	516	564	518	545	3.19
Private Group	4,446	10	543	577	538	561	3.20
Hospital Based Group	9,019	21	532	575	529	556	3.20
Full-Time Teaching and/or Research	1,809	4	548	600	544	590	3.23
Public Health	2,647	6	534	559	535	540	3.15
Industrial	40	0	541	597	522	553	3.15
Medical Administration	88	0	502	559	507	528	3.03
Other Medical Practice	770	2	558	584	553	566	3.18
Undecided	6,983	17	549	590	547	574	3.26
No Response	1,273	1	544	575	545	555	2.94

*Number with MCAT scores - 41,864; number with known GPAs - 36,802.

Commentary on Table 24

When applicants to the 1974-75 class were asked to anticipate the eventual character of their medical practice, 17 percent were undecided and 1 percent did not reply. The most popular choices, however, were hospital-based group (21 percent), individual practice (19 percent), partnership (18 percent), and private group (10 percent). Among the less popular potential types of medical activity were full-time teaching and/or research (4 percent), public health (6 percent), and other medical practice (2 percent). Less than half of one percent indicated an interest in industrial medicine and/or medical administration respectively. These preferences are similar to those reported by applicants for the 1972-73 entering class and published in Table 3 of "Recruitment and Progress of Minority Medical School Entrants, 1970-72" by Johnson, Smith, and Tarnoff (July 1975 Supplement to Journal of Medical Education).

Although the relationship between ability level and the tentative character of medical practice appears to be low, interesting observations emerge. As might be expected, those individuals contemplating possible careers in full-time teaching and/or research tend to have slightly higher MCAT scores and GPA's than the applicant pool as a whole. Similarly, those who do not feel that they are ready to commit themselves and thus gave an "undecided" response were at the higher end of the ability scale.

Commentary on Table 24 (cont.)

At the lower end of the scale, as measured by MCAT and GPA, were students interested in public health and medical administration.

For information concerning the expected character of medical practice for accepted versus nonaccepted applicants, see Appendix Table A-5.

Commentary on Table 25

This proposed table had the working title of "MCAT Scores and College Grades of Applicants by Location of Medical Practice, 1974-75 Entering Class."

In trying to produce this table, it was discovered that the question about future location of medical practice was not asked of applicants until the May 1974 version of the Medical College Admission Test. Since almost all applicants to and entrants in the 1974-75 class took the MCAT in 1973 or earlier, it was not possible to produce this table from existing applicant study data.

If desired, however, a somewhat comparable table could be produced for 1974-75 first-year students from the data file that has been developed from the 1974-75 survey of how medical students finance their education.

III SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

As evidenced by the data provided and discussed in this report, there have been substantial increases in numbers of medical schools, applicants, applications, and new entrants from 1970-71 through 1974-75. It appears, however, that the rates of increase have been declining somewhat since 1972-73.

Extraordinary gains have taken place relative to the numbers of applicants and acceptees who are women and members of underrepresented minority groups. As a result, both the applicant pool and the entering class are much more diverse now than they were five years ago.

The quality of the applicant pool, as measured by MCAT scores and by undergraduate college grades, continues at a very high level and has shown less change over the years under study. Major exceptions have been gains in the Science subtest of the MCAT and in the proportion of admitted students with "A" averages.

Looking to the future, it appears that the number of applicants may be starting to level off. However, the admissions process at U.S. medical schools promises to continue to be a voluminous, expensive, and important activity that will affect the future careers of thousands and the future health care of millions of American citizens.

APPENDIX A

Supplementary Tables

for Report of Medical School Applicants, 1974-75

Commentary

This appendix to the 1974-75 Report of Applicants contains five tables showing distributions of mean MCAT scores and GPA's of 1974-75 applicants and acceptees by (1) Parental Income, (2) Father's Occupation, (3) Career Activity Plans, (4) Specialization Plans, and (5) Expected Character of Medical Practice. The latter 4 tables provide additional data to that summarized for these same topics in Tables 19, 22, 23 and 24 respectively. Table A-1, however, supplies new data not previously reported in this study.

Data for all of these tables were derived from a) applicant entries on MCAT questionnaires and AMCAS applications b) MCAT test score reports, and c) medical school application action reports. An example of how to interpret these tables is provided by the following explanation of Table A-1, "MCAT Scores and College Grades of Applicants by Parental Income, 1974-75 First-Year Class."

In column one of this table, eight parental income groups are identified. (Since most applicants for the 1974-75 first-year class took the MCAT during 1973, and since they were asked to report their parents' combined gross annual income for the previous year, these data usually reflect 1972 income levels.)

The top or "Accepted" line in each group refers to all acceptees with the parental incomes specified. The second line shows the number of "non-accepted" applicants, and the third or "Total" line combines both the accepted and non-accepted applicants in each income level grouping.

Thus, as indicated in column 13, 868 out of 2,757 applicants with parents in the "Less than $5,000/year" income bracket were accepted. Column 14 shows that these 868 acceptees represented 31.4 percent of the group total of 2,757 and that 1,889 or 68.5 percent of this income group were not accepted. The group total of 2,757 constituted a 6.4 percent portion of the total applicant pool of 42,624.

Columns 2 and 3 show total and percent of applicants for whom MCAT scores were available, while columns 13 and 14 show number and percent of all applicants belonging to a specific group regardless of the test score availability. Although the corresponding columns are idential in many cases, they differ substantially for the "no response" and "total" categories.

Columns 4, 5, 6 and 7 list for each of the MCAT subtests the mean scores achieved by the accepted, non-accepted, and total category for each group, with the abbreviations having the following meanings: VER = Verbal Ability; QUA = Quantitative Ability; GEN = General Information; and SCI = Science.

Columns 8 and 9 indicate the number and percent of applicants per category and group for whom undergraduate grade point averages were available. Excluded from these figures are a) applicants not using the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) and b) applicants using AMCAS but attending undergraduate colleges that do not award traditional grades.

Columns 10, 11 and 12 present separate mean undergraduate GPA's for BCPM (Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics), AO (all other courses) and Total by category for each income group. Finally, the "No Response" group for all 14 columns consists of those who elected not to respond to the parental income question on the MCAT questionnaire.

Table A-1

MCAT Scores and Undergraduate College Grades of Applicants

by Acceptance Status and by Parental Income, 1974-75 Entering Class

APPLICANTS BY PARENTAL INCOME (1)	NUMBER WITH MCATS (2)	% WITH MCATS (3)	MEAN MCAT SCORES VER (4)	QUA (5)	GEN (6)	SCI (7)	NUMBER WITH GPAS (8)	% WITH GPAS (9)	MEAN UG GPAS BCPM (10)	AO (11)	TOTAL (12)	TOTAL ALL (13)	% (14)
LESS THAN $5,000													
ACCEPTED	868	31.4	508	554	504	547	774	34.7	3.17	3.29	3.22	868	31.4
NON-ACCEPTED	1888	68.5	477	513	479	487	1453	65.2	2.84	3.02	2.93	1889	68.5
TOTAL	2756	6.5	487	525	487	506	2227	6.0	2.95	3.11	3.03	2757	6.4
$5,000 - $9,999													
ACCEPTED	1606	31.7	541	591	539	583	1453	34.2	3.38	3.42	3.40	1606	31.7
NON-ACCEPTED	3452	68.2	504	539	506	516	2788	65.7	2.96	3.10	3.03	3453	68.2
TOTAL	5058	12.0	516	556	517	537	4241	11.5	3.10	3.21	3.15	5059	11.8
$10,000 - $11,999													
ACCEPTED	1570	31.6	554	603	554	598	1399	32.8	3.44	3.46	3.45	1570	31.6
NON-ACCEPTED	3388	68.3	514	553	517	533	2859	67.1	3.00	3.13	3.06	3388	68.3
TOTAL	4958	11.8	526	569	529	553	4258	11.5	3.14	3.24	3.19	4958	11.6
$12,000 - $14,999													
ACCEPTED	2019	34.5	558	614	557	606	1816	35.6	3.50	3.50	3.50	2020	34.5
NON-ACCEPTED	3833	65.5	518	556	519	533	3277	64.3	3.00	3.15	3.07	3833	65.4
TOTAL	5852	13.9	532	576	532	558	5093	13.8	3.18	3.28	3.23	5853	13.7
$15,000 - $19,999													
ACCEPTED	2545	35.7	568	619	564	611	2300	37.0	3.47	3.48	3.47	2545	35.7
NON-ACCEPTED	4576	64.2	525	567	525	544	3902	62.9	3.00	3.14	3.07	4578	64.2
TOTAL	7121	17.0	541	586	539	568	6202	16.8	3.17	3.27	3.22	7123	16.7
$20,000 - $24,999													
ACCEPTED	1952	39.7	573	621	568	613	1788	40.4	3.52	3.51	3.52	1952	39.7
NON-ACCEPTED	2963	60.2	525	564	521	542	2632	59.5	3.04	3.18	3.11	2963	60.2
TOTAL	4915	11.7	544	587	540	570	4420	12.0	3.23	3.32	3.27	4915	11.5
$25,000 - $49,999													
ACCEPTED	2579	41.7	581	623	574	615	2388	42.6	3.47	3.47	3.47	2579	41.7
NON-ACCEPTED	3602	58.2	529	567	526	545	3209	57.3	3.01	3.14	3.08	3602	58.2
TOTAL	6181	14.7	551	590	546	574	5597	15.2	3.21	3.29	3.24	6181	14.5
$50,000 OR MORE													
ACCEPTED	1316	42.3	576	615	568	605	1246	44.0	3.41	3.41	3.41	1316	42.3
NON-ACCEPTED	1795	57.7	527	556	523	532	1584	55.9	2.93	3.09	3.01	1795	57.7
TOTAL	3111	7.4	548	581	542	563	2830	7.6	3.14	3.23	3.19	3111	7.3
NO RESPONSE													
ACCEPTED	488	25.5	580	619	572	608	445	23.0	3.32	3.36	3.34	610	22.8
NON-ACCEPTED	1424	74.4	535	561	536	542	1489	76.9	2.89	3.03	2.96	2057	77.1
TOTAL	1912	4.5	546	576	545	559	1934	5.2	2.99	3.10	3.05	2667	6.2
TOTAL													
ACCEPTED	14943	35.6	563	610	559	603	13609	36.9	3.44	3.46	3.45	15066	35.3
NON-ACCEPTED	26921	64.3	518	555	518	532	23193	63.0	2.98	3.12	3.05	27558	64.6
TOTAL	41864	100.0	534	575	532	558	36802	100.0	3.15	3.25	3.20	42624	100.0

Table A-2

MCAT Scores and Undergraduate College Grades of Applicants

by Acceptance Status and by Father's Occupation, 1974-75 Entering Class

APPLICANTS BY FATHERS OCCUPATION (1)	NUMBER WITH MCATS (2)	% WITH MCATS (3)	MEAN MCAT SCORES VER (4)	QUA (5)	GEN (6)	SCI (7)	NUMBER WITH GPAS (8)	% WITH GPAS (9)	MEAN UG GPAS BCPM (10)	AO (11)	TOTAL (12)	TOTAL ALL (13)	% (14)
PHYSICIAN													
ACCEPTED	1999	40.9	572	609	566	600	1861	42.8	3.38	3.41	3.39	1999	40.9
NON-ACCEPTED	2881	59.0	525	551	524	531	2479	57.1	2.89	3.05	2.97	2881	59.0
TOTAL	4880	11.6	544	575	541	560	4340	11.7	3.10	3.20	3.15	4880	11.4
OTHER HEALTH PROFESSION													
ACCEPTED	625	37.0	570	619	567	616	561	38.3	3.49	3.52	3.50	625	37.0
NON-ACCEPTED	1063	62.9	522	560	522	539	901	61.6	3.02	3.16	3.09	1063	62.9
TOTAL	1688	4.0	540	582	538	567	1462	3.9	3.20	3.29	3.25	1688	3.9
HEALTH WORKER													
ACCEPTED	32	35.1	550	569	538	562	32	41.0	3.21	3.21	3.18	32	35.1
NON-ACCEPTED	59	64.8	475	501	479	472	46	58.9	2.80	2.93	2.89	59	64.8
TOTAL	91	0.2	501	525	500	504	78	0.2	2.97	3.05	3.02	91	0.2
OTHER PROFESSION													
ACCEPTED	3608	38.3	580	622	572	613	3274	39.7	3.48	3.49	3.48	3608	38.3
NON-ACCEPTED	5804	61.6	533	568	529	546	4969	60.2	3.02	3.16	3.09	5804	61.6
TOTAL	9412	22.4	551	589	545	572	8243	22.4	3.20	3.29	3.24	9412	22.0
OWNER, MANAGER, ADMINISTRATOR (NON-FARM)													
ACCEPTED	3694	35.4	568	619	565	611	3378	36.6	3.49	3.48	3.49	3694	35.4
NON-ACCEPTED	6739	64.5	521	563	521	538	5830	63.3	3.01	3.14	3.07	6739	64.5
TOTAL	10433	24.9	538	583	537	564	9208	25.0	3.19	3.26	3.22	10433	24.4
CLERICAL OR SALES WORKER													
ACCEPTED	835	34.4	555	611	558	607	760	36.1	3.47	3.46	3.47	835	34.4
NON-ACCEPTED	1591	65.5	519	561	521	536	1343	63.8	3.02	3.16	3.09	1591	65.5
TOTAL	2426	5.7	532	578	533	560	2103	5.7	3.18	3.27	3.22	2426	5.6
TRANSPORT OR EQUIPEMENT OPERATIVE													
ACCEPTED	219	34.1	535	575	534	572	194	34.5	3.25	3.38	3.31	219	34.1
NON-ACCEPTED	423	65.8	490	527	497	509	368	65.4	2.97	3.14	3.05	423	65.8
TOTAL	642	1.5	505	543	509	531	562	1.5	3.07	3.22	3.14	642	1.5
CRAFTSMAN, SKILLED WORKER													
ACCEPTED	1249	30.5	548	598	546	594	1188	32.2	3.42	3.46	3.44	1300	30.5
NON-ACCEPTED	2953	69.4	509	544	511	525	2500	67.7	2.98	3.12	3.05	2954	69.4
TOTAL	4252	10.1	521	561	522	546	3688	10.0	3.12	3.23	3.18	4254	9.9
UNSKILLED WORKERS, LABORERS, PRIVATE HOUSEHOLD WORKER (NON-FARM)													
ACCEPTED	655	34.0	507	559	506	552	594	36.7	3.21	3.33	3.26	655	34.0
NON-ACCEPTED	1271	65.9	481	514	490	493	1024	63.2	2.85	3.03	2.94	1271	65.9
TOTAL	1926	4.6	490	530	496	513	1618	4.4	2.98	3.14	3.06	1924	4.5
FARMER, FARM MANAGERS													
ACCEPTED	363	36.8	524	594	524	589	330	39.1	3.52	3.50	3.51	363	36.8
NON-ACCEPTED	623	63.1	480	525	477	506	514	60.9	3.03	3.12	3.07	623	63.1
TOTAL	986	2.3	496	551	495	537	844	2.2	3.22	3.27	3.24	986	2.3

Table A-2 (Continued)

APPLICANTS BY FATHERS OCCUPATION (1)	NUMBER WITH MCATS (2)	% WITH MCATS (3)	MEAN MCAT SCORES VER (4)	QUA (5)	REA (6)	SCI (7)	NUMBER WITH GPAS (8)	% WITH GPAS (9)	MEAN UG GPAS BCPM (10)	AO (11)	TOTAL (12)	TOTAL ALL (13)	% (14)
FARM FOREMAN, FARM LABORERS													
ACCEPTED	47	25.0	534	586	529	583	38	29.0	3.23	3.34	3.28	47	25.0
NON-ACCEPTED	141	75.0	473	515	472	492	93	70.9	2.86	3.04	2.94	141	75.0
TOTAL	188	0.4	489	533	486	515	131	0.3	2.97	3.13	3.05	188	0.4
HOMEMAKER													
ACCEPTED	9	32.1	556	607	560	589	8	34.7	3.25	3.50	3.37	9	32.1
NON-ACCEPTED	19	67.8	498	528	487	505	15	65.2	2.80	3.13	3.00	19	67.8
TOTAL	28	0.0	517	563	511	532	23	0.0	2.95	3.30	3.13	28	0.0
OTHER													
ACCEPTED	1336	33.9	549	602	543	592	1182	35.2	3.41	3.45	3.43	1336	33.8
NON-ACCEPTED	2603	66.0	506	548	509	522	2173	64.7	3.00	3.14	3.07	2606	66.1
TOTAL	3939	9.4	520	567	521	545	3355	9.1	3.14	3.25	3.19	3942	9.2
NO RESPONSE													
ACCEPTED	222	22.8	566	604	561	593	209	18.2	3.23	3.26	3.25	344	19.9
NON-ACCEPTED	751	77.1	531	566	531	540	938	81.7	2.82	2.97	2.90	1384	80.0
TOTAL	973	2.3	539	571	538	552	1147	3.1	2.90	3.02	2.97	1728	4.0
TOTAL													
ACCEPTED	14943	35.6	563	610	559	603	13609	36.9	3.44	3.46	3.45	15066	35.3
NON-ACCEPTED	26921	64.3	518	555	518	532	23193	63.0	2.98	3.12	3.05	27558	64.6
TOTAL	41864	100.0	534	575	532	558	36802	100.0	3.15	3.25	3.20	42624	100.0

Table A-3

MCAT Scores and Undergraduate College Grades of Applicants

by Acceptance Status and by General Career Activity Plans, 1974-75 Entering Class

APPLICANTS BY CAREER PLANS	NUMBER WITH MCATS	% WITH MCATS	MEAN MCAT SCORES VER	QUA	GEN	SCI	NUMBER WITH GPAS	% WITH GPAS	MEAN UG GPAS BCPM	AO	TOTAL	TOTAL ALL	%
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
GENERAL PRACTICE													
ACCEPTED	5003	31.4	555	601	553	597	4559	32.8	3.41	3.44	3.42	5003	31.4
NON-ACCEPTED	10915	68.5	513	548	515	527	9334	67.1	2.96	3.11	3.03	10915	68.5
TOTAL	15918	38.0	526	565	527	549	13893	37.7	3.11	3.22	3.16	15919	37.3
SPECIALTY PRACTICE													
ACCEPTED	4169	36.3	555	603	551	592	3769	37.9	3.41	3.46	3.43	4170	36.3
NON-ACCEPTED	7292	63.6	509	547	510	520	6162	62.0	2.97	3.14	3.05	7293	63.6
TOTAL	11461	27.3	526	568	525	546	9931	26.9	3.13	3.26	3.19	11463	26.8
RESEARCH AND/OR TEACHING													
ACCEPTED	614	36.1	573	629	569	628	563	38.5	3.49	3.43	3.47	614	36.1
NON-ACCEPTED	1083	63.8	522	576	523	557	896	61.4	3.03	3.09	3.06	1083	63.8
TOTAL	1697	4.0	540	595	539	583	1459	3.9	3.21	3.22	3.22	1697	3.9
COMBINATION OF SPECIALTY PRACTICE, RESEARCH, AND/OR TEACHING													
ACCEPTED	2999	40.6	576	625	569	617	2728	42.7	3.48	3.47	3.48	2999	40.6
NON-ACCEPTED	4381	59.3	528	569	526	548	3647	57.2	3.00	3.13	3.06	4383	59.3
TOTAL	7380	17.6	548	592	544	576	6375	17.3	3.21	3.28	3.24	7382	17.3
OTHER MEDICAL FIELD													
ACCEPTED	142	34.7	579	606	577	595	132	37.5	3.33	3.37	3.34	142	34.7
NON-ACCEPTED	267	65.2	531	553	526	524	220	62.5	2.98	3.09	3.05	267	65.2
TOTAL	409	0.9	548	572	544	548	352	0.9	3.11	3.20	3.16	409	0.9
OTHER NON-MEDICAL FIELD													
ACCEPTED	11	18.6	582	641	585	600	9	23.6	3.33	3.55	3.44	11	18.5
NON-ACCEPTED	48	81.3	508	551	482	516	29	76.3	2.89	3.03	2.96	48	81.3
TOTAL	59	0.1	522	567	501	532	38	0.1	3.00	3.15	3.07	59	0.1
UNDECIDED													
ACCEPTED	1901	42.8	575	622	569	614	1739	43.4	3.51	3.51	3.51	1901	42.8
NON-ACCEPTED	2541	57.2	537	570	532	551	2261	56.5	3.07	3.20	3.13	2541	57.2
TOTAL	4442	10.6	553	592	548	578	4000	10.8	3.26	3.33	3.30	4442	10.4
NO RESPONSE													
ACCEPTED	104	20.8	574	605	570	595	110	14.5	3.23	3.23	3.23	226	18.0
NON-ACCEPTED	394	79.1	540	569	540	546	644	85.4	2.79	2.93	2.88	1027	81.9
TOTAL	498	1.1	547	576	546	556	754	2.0	2.86	2.97	2.93	1253	2.9
TOTAL													
ACCEPTED	14943	35.6	563	610	559	603	13409	36.9	3.44	3.46	3.45	15066	35.3
NON-ACCEPTED	26921	64.3	518	555	518	532	23193	63.0	2.98	3.12	3.05	27558	64.6
TOTAL	41864	100.0	534	575	532	558	36802	100.0	3.15	3.25	3.20	42624	100.0

Table A-4

MCAT Scores and Undergraduate College Grades of Applicants

by Acceptance Status and by Specialization Plans, 1974-75 Entering Class

APPLICANTS BY SPECIALIZATION PLANS	NUMBER WITH MCATS	% WITH MCATS	MEAN MCAT SCORES VER	QUA	BCN	SCI	NUMBER WITH GPAS	% WITH GPAS	MEAN UG GPAS BCPM	AO	TOTAL	TOTAL ALL	%
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCE													
ACCEPTED	433	37.2	574	630	569	630	395	38.9	3.50	3.47	3.49	433	37.2
NON-ACCEPTED	729	62.7	527	573	525	560	620	61.0	3.04	3.09	3.07	729	62.7
TOTAL	1162	2.7	544	595	542	586	1015	2.7	3.22	3.24	3.23	1162	2.7
FAMILY PRACTICE													
ACCEPTED	3296	32.2	559	599	557	597	3022	33.6	3.41	3.43	3.42	3296	32.2
NON-ACCEPTED	6930	67.7	520	548	519	530	5951	66.3	2.97	3.12	3.04	6930	67.7
TOTAL	10226	24.4	532	565	531	551	8973	24.3	3.12	3.22	3.17	10226	23.9
INTERNAL MEDICINE													
ACCEPTED	1077	36.7	570	610	561	608	965	38.0	3.43	3.42	3.43	1077	36.7
NON-ACCEPTED	1852	63.2	516	552	514	538	1572	61.9	2.95	3.07	3.01	1853	63.2
TOTAL	2929	7.0	536	573	532	564	2537	6.8	3.13	3.20	3.17	2930	6.8
OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY													
ACCEPTED	359	29.0	536	575	531	558	324	32.0	3.29	3.36	3.31	359	29.0
NON-ACCEPTED	875	70.9	493	529	495	493	686	67.9	2.90	3.09	2.99	875	70.9
TOTAL	1234	2.9	505	540	505	512	1010	2.7	3.03	3.18	3.09	1234	2.9
PEDIATRICS													
ACCEPTED	1304	36.3	551	599	551	584	1182	37.8	3.40	3.46	3.43	1304	36.3
NON-ACCEPTED	2284	63.6	504	547	506	516	1942	62.1	2.97	3.16	3.06	2284	63.6
TOTAL	3588	8.5	521	566	523	541	3124	8.4	3.13	3.27	3.20	3588	8.4
PSYCHIATRY													
ACCEPTED	522	34.8	595	617	590	605	476	36.5	3.38	3.48	3.43	522	34.8
NON-ACCEPTED	977	65.1	550	555	551	531	826	63.4	2.90	3.17	3.05	977	65.1
TOTAL	1499	3.5	566	574	564	557	1302	3.5	3.08	3.29	3.19	1499	3.5
PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMUNITY MEDICINE													
ACCEPTED	677	34.2	573	591	566	582	612	36.1	3.28	3.38	3.32	677	34.1
NON-ACCEPTED	1302	65.7	525	548	528	526	1083	63.8	2.92	3.10	3.00	1304	65.8
TOTAL	1979	4.7	542	562	541	545	1695	4.6	3.05	3.20	3.12	1981	4.6
SURGERY													
ACCEPTED	1241	32.4	540	608	537	595	1100	33.9	3.41	3.42	3.42	1242	32.4
NON-ACCEPTED	2588	67.5	488	549	494	519	2149	66.1	2.98	3.10	3.04	2588	67.5
TOTAL	3829	9.1	505	568	508	543	3249	8.8	3.12	3.21	3.16	3830	8.9
SURGICAL SUB-SPECIALTY													
ACCEPTED	573	35.3	557	620	552	611	512	36.7	3.45	3.46	3.45	573	35.3
NON-ACCEPTED	1049	64.6	513	556	514	531	882	63.2	2.95	3.08	3.01	1049	64.6
TOTAL	1622	3.8	529	574	524	559	1394	3.7	3.13	3.22	3.18	1622	3.8
OTHER													
ACCEPTED	614	32.9	576	625	576	614	564	34.7	3.46	3.45	3.46	614	32.9
NON-ACCEPTED	1256	67.0	533	569	528	550	1060	65.2	2.99	3.10	3.05	1256	67.0
TOTAL	1872	4.4	547	587	542	571	1624	4.4	3.15	3.22	3.19	1872	4.7

Table A-4 (Continued)

APPLICANTS BY SPECIALIZATION PLANS (1)	NUMBER WITH MCATS (2)	% WITH MCATS (3)	MEAN MCAT SCORES VER (4)	QUA (5)	GEN (6)	SCI (7)	NUMBER WITH GPAS (8)	% WITH GPAS (9)	MEAN UG GPAS PCPM (10)	AO (11)	TOTAL (12)	TOTAL ALL (13)	% (14)
PLAN TO SPECIALIZE													
ACCEPTED	1628	45.7	571	626	567	616	1499	47.6	3.53	3.52	3.53	1628	45.7
NON-ACCEPTED	1929	54.2	524	578	522	544	1645	52.3	3.03	3.18	3.10	1929	54.2
TOTAL	3557	8.5	546	595	543	577	3144	8.5	3.27	3.34	3.31	3557	8.3
DO NOT PLAN TO SPECIALIZE													
ACCEPTED	645	28.8	548	605	546	599	586	30.6	3.45	3.48	3.46	645	28.8
NON-ACCEPTED	1592	71.1	514	565	517	530	1328	69.3	2.97	3.11	3.03	1593	71.1
TOTAL	2237	5.3	524	579	525	550	1914	5.2	3.12	3.22	3.17	2238	5.2
UNDECIDED													
ACCEPTED	2449	43.8	572	625	566	617	2244	44.7	3.52	3.51	3.52	2449	43.8
NON-ACCEPTED	3140	56.1	531	572	527	551	2770	55.2	3.09	3.21	3.15	3140	56.1
TOTAL	5589	13.3	549	595	544	580	5014	13.6	3.28	3.35	3.31	5589	13.1
NO-RESPONSE													
ACCEPTED	123	22.7	563	603	559	588	128	15.8	3.25	3.25	3.25	245	18.9
NON-ACCEPTED	418	77.2	536	584	539	544	679	84.1	2.79	2.93	2.87	1051	81.1
TOTAL	541	1.2	542	574	544	554	807	2.1	2.86	2.98	2.93	1296	3.0
TOTAL													
ACCEPTED	14943	35.6	563	616	559	603	13609	36.9	3.44	3.46	3.45	15066	35.3
NON-ACCEPTED	26921	64.3	518	565	518	532	23193	63.0	2.98	3.12	3.05	27558	64.6
TOTAL	41864	100.0	534	575	532	558	36802	100.0	3.15	3.25	3.20	42624	100.0

Table A-5

MCAT Scores and Undergraduate College Grades of Applicants

by Acceptance Status and by Expected Character of Medical Practice, 1974-75 Entering Class

APPLICANTS BY CHARACTER OF MED. PRACTICE	NUMBER WITH MCATS	% WITH MCATS	MEAN MCAT SCORES VER	QUA	GEN	SCI	NUMBER WITH GPAS	% WITH GPAS	MEAN UG GPAS BCPM	AO	TOTAL	TOTAL ALL	%
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
INDIVIDUAL													
ACCEPTED	2508	31.1	558	610	557	605	2293	32.6	3.44	3.47	3.45	2508	31.1
NON-ACCEPTED	5553	68.8	515	551	516	529	4721	67.3	2.96	3.11	3.03	5554	68.8
TOTAL	8061	19.2	528	569	529	553	7014	19.0	3.11	3.23	3.17	8062	18.9
PARTNERSHIP													
ACCEPTED	2496	33.3	545	599	541	591	2280	34.8	3.46	3.46	3.46	2496	33.3
NON-ACCEPTED	4991	66.6	502	547	506	523	4267	65.1	2.99	3.12	3.05	4991	66.6
TOTAL	7487	17.8	516	564	518	545	6547	17.7	3.15	3.24	3.19	7487	17.5
PRIVATE GROUP													
ACCEPTED	1715	38.5	565	608	561	599	1555	39.6	3.42	3.46	3.44	1715	38.5
NON-ACCEPTED	2731	61.4	529	557	523	538	2371	60.3	2.98	3.12	3.05	2731	61.4
TOTAL	4446	10.6	543	577	538	561	3926	10.6	3.16	3.25	3.20	4446	10.4
HOSPITAL BASED GROUP													
ACCEPTED	3314	36.7	564	611	558	602	2995	38.5	3.42	3.44	3.43	3315	36.7
NON-ACCEPTED	5703	63.2	513	553	512	528	4768	61.4	2.99	3.13	3.06	5704	63.2
TOTAL	9017	21.5	532	575	529	556	7763	21.0	3.16	3.25	3.20	9019	21.1
FULL-TIME TEACHING AND/OR RESEARCH													
ACCEPTED	694	38.3	581	637	575	633	625	40.1	3.53	3.47	3.50	694	38.3
NON-ACCEPTED	1114	61.6	527	576	525	563	930	59.8	3.03	3.07	3.05	1115	61.6
TOTAL	1808	4.3	548	600	544	590	1555	4.2	3.23	3.23	3.23	1809	4.2
PUBLIC HEALTH													
ACCEPTED	923	34.8	560	584	558	578	849	37.4	3.30	3.40	3.35	923	34.8
NON-ACCEPTED	1724	65.1	521	545	523	519	1420	62.5	2.94	3.14	3.04	1724	65.1
TOTAL	2647	6.2	534	559	535	540	2269	6.1	3.07	3.24	3.15	2647	6.2
INDUSTRIAL													
ACCEPTED	13	32.5	548	611	560	594	10	30.3	3.30	3.30	3.30	13	32.5
NON-ACCEPTED	27	67.5	537	590	504	533	23	69.7	3.08	3.00	3.04	27	67.5
TOTAL	40	0.1	541	597	522	553	33	0.0	3.18	3.09	3.15	40	0.0
MEDICAL ADMINISTRATION													
ACCEPTED	29	32.9	551	610	545	592	22	33.8	3.27	3.45	3.36	29	32.9
NON-ACCEPTED	59	67.0	479	533	488	496	43	66.1	2.81	2.90	2.86	59	67.0
TOTAL	88	0.2	502	559	507	528	65	0.1	2.96	3.10	3.03	88	0.2
OTHER													
ACCEPTED	291	37.7	583	618	576	607	271	40.3	3.38	3.43	3.40	291	37.7
NON-ACCEPTED	479	62.2	543	564	540	541	401	59.6	2.96	3.09	3.03	479	62.2
TOTAL	770	1.8	558	584	553	566	672	1.8	3.13	3.23	3.18	770	1.8
UNDECIDED													
ACCEPTED	2839	40.6	575	622	570	616	2581	41.8	3.49	3.49	3.49	2839	40.6
NON-ACCEPTED	4143	59.3	532	567	531	546	3587	58.1	3.03	3.18	3.10	4144	59.3
TOTAL	6982	16.6	549	590	547	574	6168	16.7	3.22	3.31	3.26	6983	16.3
NO RESPONSE													
ACCEPTED	121	23.3	570	602	564	594	128	16.2	3.27	3.26	3.27	243	19.0
NON-ACCEPTED	397	76.6	536	566	540	544	662	83.8	2.79	2.93	2.87	1030	80.9
TOTAL	518	1.2	544	575	545	555	790	2.1	2.87	2.99	2.94	1273	2.9
TOTAL													
ACCEPTED	14943	35.6	563	610	559	603	13609	36.9	3.44	3.46	3.45	15066	35.3
NON-ACCEPTED	26921	64.3	518	555	518	532	23193	63.0	2.98	3.12	3.05	27558	64.6
TOTAL	41864	100.0	534	575	532	558	36802	100.0	3.15	3.25	3.20	42624	100.0

DATAGRAM

Applicants for the 1974-75 First-Year Medical School Class

U.S. medical schools continue to attract large numbers of applicants. In the competition for places in the 1974-75 first year class, 42,624 individuals submitted 362,376 applications for approximately 14,500 new places. This reflects increases over the previous year of 2,118 (5 percent) in applicants and 34,101 (10 percent) in applications (Table 1). These increases, however, amounted to less than half of the corresponding annual gains experienced for the 1973-74 entering class and are indicative of further declines in annual growth rates. Applications advanced more rapidly than applicants because the average number filed per individual rose from 8.1 for 1973-74 to 8.5 for 1974-75.

The total of 15,066 acceptees in 1974-75 amounted to a 5.1 percent increase over 1973-74; this was 0.9 above the 4.2 percent gain recorded in 1973-74 over 1972-73. A similar increase occurred in the gain in first-year class size discussed in a previous Datagram (1). The number of medical schools accepting applicants remained at 114.

The stabilizing admissions situation is also illustrated by the absence of significant changes in (*a*) applicants per acceptance and (*b*) percent of total applicants offered a place. The former remained at 2.83 for 1974-75, while the latter showed a small decrease from 35.4 for 1973-74 to 35.3 for 1974-75 (Table 1).

Although the overall applicant pool advanced by only 5 percent, the number of women applicants increased by 21 percent and women acceptees by 19 percent (Table 2). The number of men applicants and men acceptees increased by 1.8 percent and 1.6 percent respectively. Striking differences between the changing proportions of men and women applying and succeeding are apparent. For both groups, slightly lower acceptance rates were recorded for 1974-75 than for 1973-74: 38.9 percent for women (39.5 in 1973-74) and 34.4 percent for men (34.5 in 1973-74). Women received 23 percent of all acceptances offered, representing a modest increase from the comparable percentage of 20 for 1973-74 and a spectacular doubling of the 11 percent of all acceptances for women in 1970-71.

TABLE 1

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION ACTIVITY, 1970-71 THROUGH 1974-75

First-Year Class	No. of Medical Schools	No. of Applicants	No. of Applications	Applications per Individual	Accepted Applicants	No. of Applicants per Acceptance	First-Year Enrollment*	Percent of Total Applicants Accepted
1970-71	102	24,987	148,797	5.95	11,500	2.17	11,348	46.00
1971-72	108	29,172	210,943	7.23	12,335	2.36	12,361	42.3
1972-73	112	36,135	267,306	7.40	13,757	2.63	13,677	38.1
1973-74	114	40,506	328,275	8.10	14,335	2.83	14,159†	35.4
1974-75	114	42,624	362.376	8.50	15,066	2.83	14,763	35.3

* Includes previously enrolled students.

† Variation from previously published total reflects late reports.

Source: AAMC annual studies of U.S. medical school applicants; data for 1974-75 first-year enrollment from AAMC 1974-75 fall enrollment questionnaire.

Age distributions for men and women applicants followed the patterns of previous years (2). More than half (63 percent) of all applicants were in the 21-23 age group, about one-fourth (23 percent) were in the 24-27 age group, only 5 percent were below age 21, and less than 10 percent were over 27.

For the selections of 1974-75 first-year stu-

dents, 75 (66 percent) of the 114 U.S. medical schools participated in the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS), representing an increase of five schools over 1973. This increase has continued steadily—83 schools used AMCAS for 1975-76, and 86 schools are now participating for the selection of their 1976-77 entering class. AMCAS processed for the 1974-75 entering class 268,208 (74 percent of the total applications for over 37,000 individuals (87 percent of all applicants); this represented respective increases of

TABLE 2

WOMEN APPLICANTS TO U.S. MEDICAL SCHOOLS AND FIRST-YEAR WOMEN STUDENTS, 1970-71 THROUGH 1974-75

First-Year Class	Total Applicants	Women Applicants		Women Accepted			First-Year Women Students	
		Number	Percentage All Applicants	Number	Percent of All Women Applicants	Percent of All Acceptees	Number	Percent of Total First-Year Class
1970-71	24,987	2,734	10.9	1,297	47.4	11.3	1,256	11.1
1971-72	29,172	3,737	12.8	1,685	45.1	13.7	1,693	13.7
1972-73	36,135	5,480	15.2	2,359	43.0	17.1	2,300	16.8
1973-74	40,506	7,202	17.8	2,847	39.5	19.9	2,790*	19.7
1974-75	42,624	8,712	20.4	3,392	38.9	22.5	3,275	22.2

* Variation from previously published total reflects late reports.

Source: AAMC annual studies of U.S. medical school applicants; data for 1974-75 first-year enrollment from AAMC 1974-75 enrollment questionnaire.

TABLE 3

MEAN MCAT SCORES OF ACCEPTED, NONACCEPTED, AND TOTAL APPLICANTS 1970-71 THROUGH 1974-75

First-Year Class	Mean MCAT Scores				No. Taking MCAT	Percentage of Total Applicants	Total Applicants
	Verbal Ability	Quantitative Ability	General Information	Science			
			ACCEPTED APPLICANTS				
1970-71	559	606	560	558	11,434	99.4	11,500
1971-72	560	606	556	565	12,324	99.9	12,335
1972-73	562	614	555	575	13,633	99.1	13,757
1973-74	567	609	563	592	14,062	98.1	14,335
1974-75	563	611	559	603	14,943	99.2	15,066
			NONACCEPTED APPLICANTS*				
1970-71	506	539	518	499	12,783	94.7	13,487
1971-72	519	549	517	510	15,941	94.7	16,837
1972-73	512	551	514	510	21,080	94.2	22,378
1973-74	518	550	521	524	25,217	96.4	26,171
1974-75	518	555	518	532	26,921	97.7	27,558
			TOTAL APPLICANTS				
1970-71	531	571	538	527	24,217	96.9	24,987
1971-72	537	574	534	534	28,265	96.9	29,172
1972-73	531	575	530	536	34,713	96.1	36,135
1973-74	535	571	536	548	39,279	97.0	40,506
1974-75	534	575	532	558	41,864	98.2	42,624

* Includes those who withdrew before any action was taken on any of their applications.

Source: AAMC annual studies of U.S. medical school applicants.

19.3 percent and 10 percent over 1973-74 AMCAS totals of 224,800 applications and 33,862 applicants (3).

Mean Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) scores of applicants for the 1974-75 first-year class showed only slight variations from the year before. For the accepted and for the total applicant groups, the Verbal Ability and General Information subtests showed scores of a few points below 1973-74, while the Quantitative Ability and Science scores were up. The largest increment, 11 points, occurred in the Science subtest. The nonaccepted group showed no change in Verbal Ability scores, a small decrease (3 points) in General Information, and increases in Quantitative Ability (5 points) and Science (8 points) (Table 3).

Looking to the future, it appears that the number of applicants as predicted by MCAT examinees is continuing to level off. For example, the number taking the MCAT in 1974-75 (58,296) was only 6 percent higher than the number of examinees in 1973-74 (55,017). Comparable annual gains in the numbers of MCAT examinees from 1968-69 through 1973-74 ranged from a low of 9 percent (from 1968-69 to 1969-70) to a high of 14 percent (from 1971-72 to 1972-73) (4). Moreover, the proportion of individuals repeating the MCAT in a given calendar year has increased steadily from 21 percent in 1970-71 to approximately 32 percent in 1974-75. The combination of lower annual increments in test population and higher numbers of test repeaters predicts further declining growth rates in applicants for admission to medical school.

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Washington, D.C.

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The following statement will be added to the reprints of this Datagram: "The work upon which this publication is based was supported in part by contract 231-75-0007 with the Bureau of Health Manpower, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. However, any conclusions and/or recommendations expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the supporting agency."

APPENDIX C

Method for Testing the Statistical Significance of Differences Between an Observed Sample Proportion and a Specified (a priori) Value

Explanations

The curves shown in Figure 1 provide a method for testing the statistical significance of differences between an observed sample proportion and a specified (a priori) value. For a given sample size (N) and specified a priori value (appearing as the abscissa in the figure), these curves give the absolute value of the minimum difference between the observed and the a priori proportions which is statistically significant at the five percent level. Values shown in these curves were obtained from the binomial approximation to the normal distribution

$$z \approx \frac{\bar{x} - p}{\sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{N}}}$$

where z = normally distributed random variable,

$\bar{x}$ = sample proportion,

p = specified proportion,

N = sample size.

Thus, for the example shown, 43 percent of 4,857 chemistry majors were accepted into the 1974-75 first-year class (Table 12), a difference of 8 percent from the overall acceptance rate of 35 percent (15,066 of 42,624). Since the difference required for significance at the five percent level relative to the a priori value of 35 percent is only 1.3 percent, the percent of chemistry majors who were accepted is significantly different from 35 percent at the 5 percent level.

EXAMPLE:

43% OF 4,857 CHEM. MAJORS ACCEPTED (TABLE 12)

DIFFERENCE FROM 35% = 8%

REQUIRED DIFFERENCE FOR SIGNIFICANCE IS 1.8%

∴ DIFFERENCE IS SIGNIFICANT AT THE 5% LEVEL

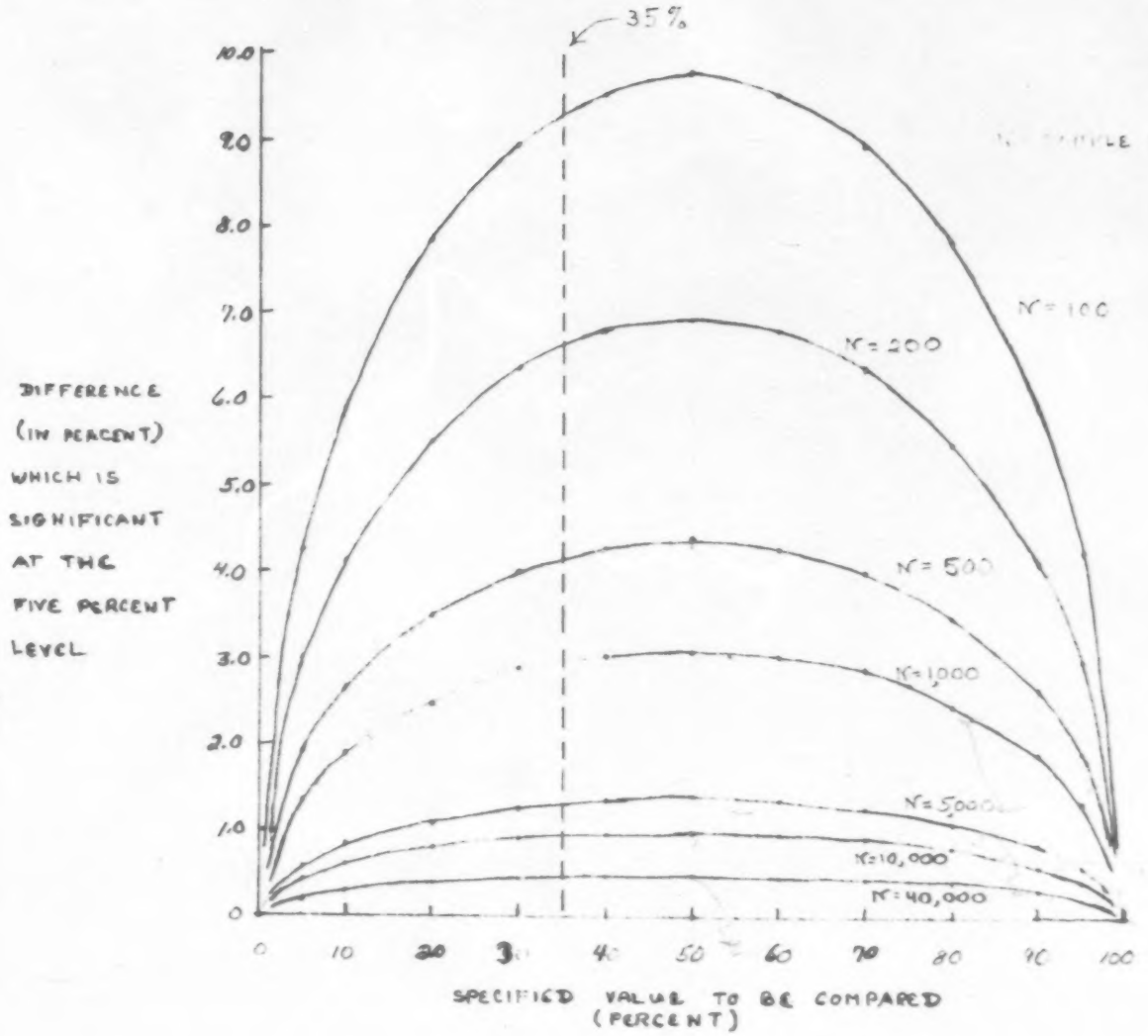

FIGURE 1

CURVES FOR TESTING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SAMPLE PROPORTIONS AND SPECIFIED (A PRIORI) VALUES

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